

Hurd signals change in law on anonymity

Police record 29% increase in rapes

A 29 per cent rise in reported rapes last year, much of it due to new police procedures, has renewed calls for changes to the law on anonymity for rape victims.

Physical assaults also increased by 7 per cent, with an 8 per cent rise in criminal damage, but the number of home burglaries fell by an encouraging 4 per cent.

An alarming 29 per cent increase last year in reported rape offences was disclosed yesterday in the annual crime figures for England and Wales.

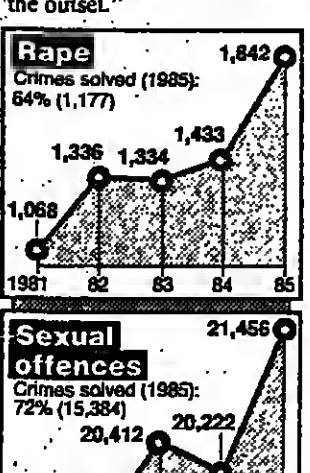
Home Secretary, said in a statement that new procedures by the Metropolitan Police had increased the proportion of rape allegations which appeared in the figures.

defendant once a charge had been brought. "I strongly support the anonymity rule for rape victims but I am concerned that this protection only arises once a charge has been made.

He was not convinced that the anonymity which the present law gave to defendants was justifiable.

The recorded number of drug trafficking offences also went up by 22 per cent last year, as crime generally continued to rise.

Hence "the rise in recorded offences appears due largely to the effect of the new force initiatives rather than a rise in the actual number of offences reported to the police."



The statistics in total show that in 1985 the police recorded about 3.6 million notifiable offences, 3 per cent more than in 1984 compared with an 8 per cent increase over the previous year.

There was an 8 per cent rise in the recorded offences of criminal damage, continuing the steady increase over many years.

Changes in the law on anonymity in rape cases were foreshadowed by Mr Hurd who, describing rape as "a uniquely despicable offence", said the law made it an offence to identify publicly either the victim of a rape or the

Letters, page 13



Racing's first lady: Dawn Run, ridden by John O'Neill, is led into the winner's enclosure by her owner, Mrs Charmian Hill, after becoming the first horse to complete the Champion Hurdle-Cheltenham Gold Cup double. Report, page 28. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Profits soar at BT and Jaguar

By Our City Staff Investors in two of Britain's leading privatized companies had cause for celebration yesterday as British Telecommunications and Jaguar unveiled their latest trading results.

Bombing suspect fights detention

By Richard Ford A woman terrorist suspect wanted by police in Britain in connection with a Provisional IRA winter bombing campaign will appear in the Dublin High Court this morning after allegations that she has been illegally detained.

Rank loses court battle over bid

By Our City Staff The Rank Organisation's £740 million takeover bid for the Granada leisure group hung in the balance yesterday after it lost a crucial High Court legal battle.

Thatcher concern over rise in 'barbaric' rape offences

By Philip Webster Political Reporter The Prime Minister spoke yesterday of the "uniquely barbaric" offence of rape after the publication of the latest crime figures which show a 29 per cent increase.

Two charged

Two men, both aged 21, were last night charged with the rape of a vicar's daughter at a west London vicarage a week ago.

of 41 per cent since 1978, called on the Government to provide more money to local authorities to help them make streets and homes safer.

Tomorrow The Times will be 48 pages - the biggest issue produced from the new plant at Wapping and the biggest paper since the autumn.

SATURDAY

A festive season

Throughout the concert halls of Europe a huge variety of artistic talent is tuning up for spring and summer festivals.

A drop of the Irish

William Trevor on the pangs of memory and desire

Portfolio

The daily prize in The Times Portfolio competition, doubled to £4,000 because there was no winner the previous day, was shared yesterday by Mr Andrew Prince, of Wex, Shropshire, and Miss P. Steel, of Chelmsford, Essex.

Schools close

Schools closed across England and Wales for the lunch break as head teachers took their first national industrial action over meal supervision Page 2

Royal farewell

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh said farewell to Australia after a gruelling but happy 36-day tour which also took them to Nepal and New Zealand Page 5

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Court, Crosswords, Law Report, and Leaders.

Gorbachov extends nuclear test halt

From Christopher Walker, Moscow Mikhail Gorbachov, the Kremlin leader, yesterday announced a second extension to the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests which had been due to expire at the end of the month.

Swedes make arrest in Palme case

Stockholm - Police last night confirmed they had arrested a man on suspicion of involvement in the assassination of the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme (Christopher Mosey writes).

Nato vote welcomed

Madrid - The triumph of "yes" votes in the Nato referendum brought near-euphoria on Spain's four stock exchanges yesterday as well as congratulations from other Nato countries (Richard Wigg writes).

More money and time for new exam

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, yesterday announced measures to ensure that schools are prepared for the new GCSE examination (Lucy Hodges writes).

UK push for home holidays

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor Britons taking some break in the UK. It is estimated that one or two holidays now takes two or more holidays a year.

Postage price freeze stays until July

The Post Office has extended its price freeze on first and second class postage by three months until July in an attempt to attract more customers (Our Technology Correspondent writes).



Quality in an age of change.

Tories accused of purging chairmen who criticize NHS

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health authority chairmen who have criticized government or regional policy towards the National Health Service are finding themselves replaced in the present round of appointments and reappointments to the 190 health districts.

Mr Robin Wood, chairman of Leeds Western Health Authority, who has been criticized by Yorkshire Regional Health Authority's policies, has not been reappointed despite a letter protesting at the decision from more than 50 consultants at the Leeds Royal Infirmary.

Mr John Bell, chairman of Airedale Health Authority, and described by colleagues as an "extremely fair and sound chairman", is being replaced despite being considered sufficiently able to have been re-elected chairman of the influential Yorkshire chairmen's group.

Dr John Todd, chairman of Canterbury and Thanet Health Authority, has also been replaced after speaking out about the financial difficulties his district was facing.

Ministers are also known to have been extremely reluctant to reappoint Mr Nick Cowan, chairman of West Lambeth Health Authority, after he spoke out over cuts at St Thomas's teaching hospital in London.

Mr Cowan, a Conservative voter, resigned earlier this week over his authority's refusal to turn over a ward to private patients to help increase the authority's income.

But rumours that he was not to be reappointed had led to protests to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, by health authority members, consultants and MPs.

Mr Sam Dougherty, chairman of Wandsworth Health Authority, is expected to be replaced by Mr Don Cruickshank, managing director of the Virgin records and airline group, in an appointment expected to be one of the more controversial of the "new blood" appointments.

Mr Wood, of Leeds Western Health Authority, a Conservative voter, described the way in which chairmen who had spoken up for their districts were being removed as inept.

Mr Wood said he had not criticized government policy. "I have always taken the view that we have an obligation to carry out the policies of the government in power."

But Mr Wood said he had described the Yorkshire region's 10-year strategy as "utterly abysmal" and had fiercely criticized the region's mechanistic approach to financial policy. He said that had also been heavily criticized by the independent inquiry into the food poisoning outbreak at the Stanley Royd psychiatric hospital in Wakefield.

The region had had to withdraw its strategy document, he said, and his criticisms of financial policy had been shown to be "entirely justified" by the Stanley Royd inquiry.

Public fear on nuclear industry

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Further developments in the nuclear power industry in the UK are in danger of becoming inhibited by public mistrust, Lord Marshall, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board said yesterday.

He told a House of Lords Committee investigating European Commission plans for nuclear power developments in Europe that the mistrust had been fuelled by incidents such as those at Sellafield.

He said: "The degree of concern expressed by the media in the UK has been out of proportion to the seriousness of the incident, judged against any objective assessment of danger to health or safety, or compared to the media response to comparable incidents arising in other industries."

But he said public opinion appeared to have been influenced in the same direction. Until confidence in the fuel processing end of the cycle could be restored, this would tend to inhibit new nuclear developments.

Lord Marshall contrasted the British attitude, to that of the French public where nuclear power had been widely accepted because the French saw no reasonable alternative.

But he said the nuclear industry could not escape all the blame. There had been some failure to appreciate that management and public relations policies must be shaped to respond to public perception of risk as well as to the actual level of risk.

NT ban on lead weights

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The National Trust, the largest private landowner in England, decided yesterday to protect swans by banning lead fishermen's weights from its hundreds of miles of river banks.

It is also to support an "amnesty" being organized by the Wildfowl Trust in the coming fishing season when anglers will be asked to hand in their own lead weights and any they find.

Research by the Nature Conservancy Council has shown that lead weights every year kill hundreds of Britain's swan population of about 20,000. The birds' habit of scooping up food from riverbeds means that they swallow some of the small lead weights.

Alternatives made from metals like tungsten can cost much more than lead and cannot always be clamped so easily onto the lines that they are to weigh down.

The National Trust issues hundreds of anglers' permits each year and owns some highly-prized stretches of water including the Wey navigation in Surrey and much of the Thames at Runnymede.

The Government has threatened to ban lead weights next year if voluntary curbs do not work.

Bryant and May, the match makers, yesterday announced a £250,000 investment in angling, including £10,000 for research at Liverpool University on weights that do not poison wildlife.

Chandler in chess lead

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

After all second round games in the GLC London Chess Challenge, Murray Chandler, the British grandmaster, leads with two points, ahead of his fellow grandmaster Jonathan Mestel and the British international master Glen Flear.

In the second round Chandler won a long game against the British world champion Nigel Short.

Round 2 Results:

Chandler	2	Mestel	1
Flear	1	Short	1
Wade	1	Wade	1
Wade	1	Wade	1
Wade	1	Wade	1

No action against sex-case doctor

By Michael Horsnell

Police have been told by the Director of Public Prosecutions not to prosecute a doctor for the rape of a girl aged eight, it was disclosed yesterday.

In another case, police are to take no action against a vicar for an alleged catalogue of sexual assaults against a boy because there is no independent evidence against the man.

A medical examination of the girl confirmed that she was raped last year and police interviewed her assailant for more than 12 hours.

But after the case papers were sent to the DPP, it was decided the case against the doctor should be dropped for lack of corroboration.

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, who has taken up the case, said he expects the victim's mother to press for a private prosecution.

The doctor was not the child's GP but was looking after her for several days at his home.

It is understood that he refused to answer police questions.

The girl suffered "horrific" internal injuries, according to the report of the family's GP, and continues to suffer from psychological damage.

Police said yesterday that the case will be reviewed in the light of any further evidence.

The General Medical Council refused to confirm or deny the case.

It is unusual for a child under the age of 14 to give evidence under oath. A court evidence is reliable but generally it would have to be corroborated by another witness.

The matter of the admissibility of a child's evidence is to be raised in Parliament in questions to the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, by Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP.

That comes after an allegation that a vicar sexually assaulted a boy aged 11 over an 18-month period.

Police have also decided in that case not to prosecute because there is no corroboration.

Mr Dickes said yesterday: "In this latest case the boy's mother told me that her son was regularly and seriously sexually assaulted by this vicar. The boy was too frightened and ashamed to mention it and it came to light only because of the injuries he sustained."

The boy's mother said yesterday that when she telephoned the vicar he said: "You should not be accusing me. You should be forgiving me."



Mr Richard Boots, an Exeter businessman, with his latest charter vessel—an Argentine gunboat. The 90ft boat, originally named Isla Malvinas, was seized by the Navy during the Falklands conflict. Now called Tiger Bay, it was sold to Mr Boots for a five figure sum two weeks ago, and he plans to charter it to people looking for oil.

Power and money in local government Lambeth Red Flag to go

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

Conservative councillors in Lambeth are planning to open the books on the Town Hall's past four years and tear down political posters and publicity handouts when they take control for five weeks next month.

Labour members are expected to decide against appealing against the recent High Court decision that they should be surcharged and disqualified for five years for delay in setting a rate last year.

But they will not announce their decision until the 28 days allowed for appeal has lapsed.

This is expected because they cannot afford further legal costs over a battle that few anticipate winning.

That will mean most of the Labour group having to move out of Lambeth Town Hall on April 3, giving the Conservatives control until after the borough elections on May 9.

"In that time we will be able to make only cosmetic changes, but they will be gestures of our intent," Mrs Mary Leigh, the Conservative group leader, said.

"Our first action will be to remove the Red Flag over the Town Hall, and all the placards and posters on the clock tower and around it. If we can't get council officers to do it, we will have to hire contractors."

"We will also immediately stop all the proposed name changes which the Labour group have been planning recently, such as renaming Brockwell Park after an imprisoned South African."

"The next thing will be to expose some of the things which have been going on, such as the political intimidation of officers in some departments by union representatives, in one case we have had reports of people's offices being occupied in an attempt to force them out of their jobs."

"Clearly that kind of thing has got to stop."

Labour in Lambeth hold a slender overall majority of four seats, and are vulnerable to the threat of defeat in the May elections, followed by the possibility of a Conservative administration, or coalition between Conservatives and Alliance members.

Plan to pay councillors studied by Labour

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Labour Party is studying a plan to pay local councillors rather than give them allowances.

Its cost could run into millions of pounds, but senior Labour figures believe that it would give an important boost to local government and help to attract members of groups such as women, young people, and blacks and Asians who are badly represented.

A working party under the chairmanship of Mr John Cunningham, Labour's chief environment spokesman, who favours the principle of paid councillors, is expected to report in July.

It is considering whether all councillors should be paid, or whether payment should be restricted to those in senior posts, such as council chairmen and leaders, and committee chairmen, many of whom already have to work almost on a full-time basis.

All councillors are entitled to receive an attendance allowance of up to £16 a day or a financial loss allowance of up to £24 a day. Those in senior posts receive a special responsibility allowance of up to £4,570.

Labour MPs know of cases where councillors have been threatened with dismissal from their jobs because of the amount of time they have to devote to their council work.

There are about 400 councils in Britain with about 25,000 council members.

Schools close in protest by heads

By Lucy Hodges and Craig Seton

Schools closed across England and Wales for the lunch break yesterday as head teachers took their first national industrial action over midday meal supervision.

Children were sent home or roamed the streets after heads had locked the school gates. But many schools, particularly in rural areas, stayed open because members of the National Association of Head Teachers did not follow the recommendation.

In Conservative-controlled Solihull only one head out of 100 took action in defiance of a reminder from the authority that he had a duty to keep the school open.

Mr Gordon Kirkpatrick, aged 49, head of Dorridge Junior School, left the school at lunchtime but the authority brought in three officers to supervise the pupils and meals were served normally.

A former president of the NAHT in Solihull, he faces possible disciplinary action at a governors' meeting today.

Schools in Dorset, Shropshire and the Outer London borough of Richmond were open to children at lunch as normal yesterday.

Most schools in Lincolnshire were also operating at midday. In Hampshire and Leicestershire the picture was patchy.

Only 39 of the 351 schools in Hereford and Worcester were closed for lunch. But in the metropolitan areas more schools shut down.

Mrs Jeanne Leake, president-elect of the NAHT and head of a Birmingham junior school, claimed that more than half her 370 members in the city had closed their schools.

More than half the association's members in Dudley, West Midlands, had also taken action.

"We feel very angry that we have had to take this step because we have always been loyal employees," she said.

The NAHT wants a nationally negotiated agreement on midday supervision rather than the present situation in which authorities are preparing local schemes and bidding for £40 million in government money.

The National Union of Teachers said yesterday that teachers' unions throughout the world had written to Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, supporting their campaign for fair pay and more resources.

Police to quiz GLC leader on march

By Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, will be interviewed by police today in connection with allegations that he took part in an illegal march in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in January.

Mr Livingstone issued a statement yesterday saying that he had agreed to be interviewed at County Hall in London by a senior officer from Scotland Yard who is investigating on behalf of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

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Labour move over Militant

Six members of the Labour Party face expulsion if it is proved that they are members of the Militant Tendency.

The six have been summoned to appear before the executive of the Mansfield Labour Party, Nottinghamshire, to answer the charge. They admit selling copies of Militant but deny being members of Militant Tendency.

Torturer jailed

A kidnapper who tortured his victim with a hot iron was jailed for three and a half years yesterday at York Crown Court.

Jimmy Johnson, aged 27, a self-employed motor mechanic, formerly of Broadmead Way, West Deaton, Newcastle, with an accomplice had held Mr Harban Singh Jassal, a wealthy businessman, prisoner in a hotel. The accomplice was jailed last August but Johnson was free for a year before giving himself up.

Drug charges

Kenneth Wilcox, a prison officer of Mount Pleasant, Rhondda, Mid Glamorgan, appeared in a Cardiff court yesterday charged with conspiring to supply drugs to prisoners in Cardiff Prison.

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£8m EEC aid

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BBC success

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NUM votes

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Race case

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MP to stand

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A child waiting to go home outside a school in London

Ferry services halted by hospital protest

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Both Sealink and Townsend Thoresen reported no sailings from Dover and Folkestone, except for a Belgian-crewed vessel to and from Ostend.

Sealink services linking Fishguard and Holyhead with the Irish Republic were at a standstill but B and I, the Irish line, was accepting Sealink bookings. There were no Sealink services between Stranraer, south-west Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

The Dutch were providing all services to and from Harwich, while Sealink's Newhaven-Dieppe service, which is French manned, was not affected.

Townsend Thoresen reported no sailings from Felixstowe and only one from Portsmouth. The NUS said that 85 ferries, freight cargo and North Sea supply boats were at a standstill.

The 113-year-old Greenwich hospital is due to close on April 1 with the transfer of seafarers to a 60-bed unit at St Thomas' Hospital, London.

Mr Jim Slater, NUS general secretary, said: "The overwhelming support for the stoppage is proof of the anger felt by seamen."

Thatcher sympathy for pickets

By Richard Evans and Michael Horsnell

The Prime Minister told the Commons last night that she regretted injuries to two demonstrators caused by a lorry outside the News International plant at Wapping, east London, on Wednesday night.

But she called on the Labour MP who raised the issue to express similar sympathy for the 79 police officers injured on the picket line at Wapping.

Later Mr Peter Shore, shadow Leader of the House, who witnessed what he termed the "deplorable and dangerous" incident, called for an early statement from Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary.

Maxwell dismisses 1,000

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The paper has failed to appear for four days in a print union "right of reply" dispute.

In a letter to staff, Mr Vic Horwood, the chief executive, said that rival papers, with the co-operation of their own unions, had "jumped in to take advantage."

He said the letter to staff was "protective notice of dismissal" to two demonstrators.

Publication of the Record was halted on Sunday night, in a row over a leader article that was to have appeared in Monday's paper, critical both of Sogat and of a Scottish Labour Party attack on the "union busting, profit-maximising" actions of Mr Maxwell.

The publisher has said production of the paper will not resume until he has an apology from Mr Allan Watson, a Sogat Scottish official, for an "unlawful act of censorship" and a written guarantee from him of no interference in editorial freedom.

The row is the latest in a series at the paper about Mr Maxwell's plans for 300 redundancies, and economies, which he claims are essential if the paper and its sister, The Sunday Mail, are to have a viable future.

Journalists yesterday condemned the damage to the Record "by management's suicidal methods of forcing the staff to accept without negotiation draconian measures of cost cutting, including massive redundancies."

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Labour confident of Fulham victory

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

After weeks of campaigning, the Fulham by-election finally got under way officially yesterday, with the Labour camp exuding confidence and predicting a comfortable victory on April 10.

Mr Roy Hattersley, shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in the marginal south-west London constituency hours before the poll writ was moved in the Commons, said: "We are going to win and I think we will win substantially. It will have a snowball effect for the party."

Mr Nick Raynsford, the Labour candidate, who is quoted at 6-4 on to win by Ladbrokes, has to overcome a Conservative majority of less than 5,000 at the last general election. If he wins it will represent Labour's first by-election victory in London for 29 years.

With unemployment in Fulham running at 12.9 per cent, compared to 4.5 per cent in 1979, and male unemployment at 17 per cent, Mr Hattersley launched Labour's campaign by unveiling a £6.8 billion jobs package.

"It is possible for us to create a million new jobs in two years. It will not be easy. But if we make that objective a primary ambition and put all other aspirations into second place, it can be done," he said.

He said that the shadow Cabinet had decided last week that a future Labour Government would concentrate national resources on job creation.

Mr Hattersley said that the Budget should contain a job creation programme of:

- £1 billion a year on public sector capital programmes, which would reduce the jobless by almost 70,000 in two years.
- £1 billion on improved public sector services, which would cut the number of registered unemployed by about 100,000 in two years.
- Reduced employers' National Insurance contributions, and so reducing the unemployed by 200,000 in two years at a cost of £1.5 billion.
- Acceptance of the Commons Employment Select Committee recommendation to guarantee jobs for the long-term unemployed, which would reduce unemployment by 750,000 over three years.

Terror bombing suspect fights detention

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increasing troop levels in the province to their highest level in three years.

The complete battalion of 550 men from the 1st Battalion Royal Greenjackets will be in the north within the next 48 hours to assist in border security duties and help protect isolated RUC stations.

Since the Anglo-Irish agreement was signed last November an extra two battalions have now been flown to the north bringing troop levels to 10,200.

The soldiers will be based in largely Protestant areas east of the River Bann in the counties of Antrim, Down and Armagh but a small number will be drafted into Londonderry and the north-west.

The Army last night played down the significance of the troop arrivals, particularly as it was known at the end of last month that another battalion was awaiting orders to be sent into the province.

An Army spokesman said: "We think it is better to meet our requirements by deploying extra soldiers rather than imposing undue workloads on those already heavily committed."

It is thought that the battalion previously based at Tidworth in Hampshire and which ended a two-year tour of duty in the north in November 1983 will be in the province for four months.

About 1,100 extra troops that have now been flown into the north since January are on duty protecting RUC stations which bore the brunt of a series of Provisional IRA attacks last winter. The soldiers are also guarding the restoration work taking place at stations that were destroyed and damaged in the bombing campaign.

Parades, warning, page 4

2 MAJOR AUCTIONS
OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY

We regretfully announce that due to prohibitive and unobtainable insurance rates currently affecting shipments in and around the Gulf, valued in excess of £10,000,000.

AN ISLAMIC COLLECTION OF:
PERSIAN CARPETS
rugs and runners...

and others from the more important weaving centres of the East, being an ancient art form which were accumulated in both Europe and the United States for exhibition and repatriation to the following countries of Iran, Iraq and Turkey.

Due to these unforeseen circumstances and the economic unfeasibility the project has been irrevocably cancelled and whilst the rugs were being held in transit in Her Majesty's Bonded Warehouse, Heathrow Airport, and others, they now have been removed and must be disposed of immediately by Auction.

Due to the vast number of pieces and value involved the auctions have been divided into sixteen separate collections thus affording everyone an equal opportunity to acquire one or more of these masterpieces.

The goods have now been removed from the warehouses to a more convenient location being REMBRANDT HOTEL, Thurloe Pl, London SW7.

The first session will be held on SATURDAY, 15th March 1986, at 11 am. Preview from 9.30 am. Second session at 3.30 pm. Preview from 2.00 pm.

Payment will be accepted in Sterling, U.S. or Canadian Dollars, Swiss Francs, Deutsch Marks, or French Francs and all major Credit Cards with I.D.

Packing and forwarding facilities available for those wishing to re-export their rugs.

BALLINGTON GRANGE LTD., 28 ROSSLYN HILL, HAMPSTEAD, LONDON, NW3.
Tel: 01-794 5912.

Pop groups should be made quieter by law, says noise council

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Noise laws are failing to protect the public against "acoustic intrusion" and need tightening, the Noise Council said in its first public statement yesterday.

Lord Elliott of Morpeth, chairman of the council, said: "I would like to have a go at pop groups."

Mr Michael Ankers, assistant director of environmental health at Manchester City Council, said: "Nationally we fail to recognize that a lot of low-level distress is caused that would cause an outcry if it was a low level of chemical exposure."

Dr Geoffrey Leventhal, president of the Institute of Acoustics and a deputy chairman of the new council, said that the thousands of noise complaints made to local authorities showed that many people were annoyed by noise made by others.

But the council showed in its first report that there was a large gap between what the law demanded and what could be enforced.

The council has been

formed by institutes of health and enforcement officers because of the growth in complaints about noise. It is meant to replace the Noise Advisory Council, a quango abolished five years ago.

Environmental health officers, who enforced the laws, had no police powers to stop and search suspects, the report said. "If the person is not known or refuses to cooperate, then the matter cannot proceed." Council members listed several types of noise which often caused annoyance.

Household noise: Thin walls between houses and flats and powerful hi-fi equipment have helped to push up the number of complaints more than tenfold in the past 15 years. "Building regulations have failed to solve the problems of poor sound insulation in modern properties", Dr Leventhal said.

Cassette players: Almost 2,000 complaints made to local councils last year about street noise, often caused by cassette players, led to 35

convictions. "It is a question of catching them at it", Dr Leventhal said. "The only people available to do the catching are the overworked environmental health officers."

Building sites: The council's report suggested that builders' satisfaction with council enforcement efforts indicated that they were too feeble. "Neighbourhood noise levels are unnecessarily elevated."

Motorcycles: "Everybody knows it is a major problem, but construction-and-use regulations demand complicated testing of silencers," Mr Ankers said. Dr Leventhal said people suffered because laws on all types of traffic noise were ignored.

Noise at work: The law had been used "sporadically and inconsistently", the report said. There was enough law to ensure adequate protection, but too little enforcement because of "the depletion of the strength and resources of the factory inspectorate at area level".



Mr Keith Taylor, sculpture conservator, preparing one of Gilbert's works for the exhibition (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Royal model found in chest

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The plaster model for one of the greatest royal sculpture commissions of the past century has been found mouldering in a tea chest on the Sandringham Estate.

Partly restored, the model will be one of the surprises of an exhibition at the Royal Academy to mark the return of the familiar statue of Eros to Piccadilly Circus on March 24, and the revival of interest in its creator, Sir Alfred Gilbert.

Gilbert, a member of the royal circle who later fell into debt and was asked to resign from the Royal Academy, is now best known for Eros, the statue that was criticized on moral grounds when it was unveiled in 1893, partly because the Haymarket was then



Sir Alfred Gilbert working in his studio

a popular place for prostitutes. But it was the memorial to Queen Victoria's eldest grandson, Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, which was the

greatest commission of the day.

Gilbert was reconciled to the Royal Family in old age and given a studio in Kensington Palace. The model for what many thought his greatest work was bought by Edward VII after Gilbert's death in 1934, and then set aside.

It remained lost until Mr Richard Dormant, who was working on a biography of Gilbert, visited Sandringham. Mr Dormant said that the model, found in a tea chest, had been affected by water and gnawed by rats but remained fascinating.

It will be unveiled on March 21 with other Gilbert work at the RA exhibition organized by Mr Dormant. The exhibition includes some of the plaster models from which Eros was cast.

Bishop tells of satanist rituals

A bishop yesterday told a court that satanists in Sussex acted out rituals at the Long Man of Wilmington, a figure cut into a chalk hillside near Eastbourne, East Sussex.

The Bishop of Lewes, the Right Rev Peter Ball, said that at first he had thought that "people mucked around" with the devil, but since the Derry Mainwaring Knight case began, he realized satanic organizations existed and that they were "a lot more real".

"I think that was one of the reasons that I gave my support to Knight as I thought it was a rather large case of mucking around", the bishop told the jury in the satanist trial at Maidstone Crown Court.

However, since then the bishop said that he had puzzled in his mind whether the Rev John Baker, Rector of Newick, East Sussex, who was raising money for Mr Knight, and whom the bishop completely trusted, was right.

Mr Knight, aged 46, an unemployed painter and decorator from Dormans Land, Surrey, denies 19 charges of obtaining more than £20,000 by deception from committed Christians.

He claims he spent the money on buying Satanic insignia to free himself from the control of the devil, but it is alleged, the money went on fast cars, prostitutes and girl friends.

The bishop said he had met Mr Knight to encourage him in his exit from evil. But he had expressed his amazement as the amount of money grew that he was told had to be raised to free Mr Knight from the devil's control.

Mr Knight told the bishop about the operation he had as a young man to have discs inserted in his forehead to heighten his control by the devil.

The case continues today.

Mortgages for top earners

By Judith Huntley

A new company has been set up to provide mortgages to higher income home buyers in the South-east.

The Household Mortgage Corporation aims to provide £1 billion of mortgages within three years of its launch in September.

The company will join the growing ranks of those in the insurance and financial services fields offering mortgages.

The corporation will initiate business through the top ten insurance companies in the UK, estate agents and mortgage brokers. It says that it can offer competitive mortgage terms because it does not have to bear the expensive overheads.

Mortgages of under £15,000 will not be considered and the corporation will lend only 80 per cent of the value of the property.

But the corporation says it can turn around mortgage applications within 24 hours. Its terms are likely to be based on a formula-linked to bank base rates.

The novel aspect of corporation's operation is that it will raise money by selling mortgage-backed securities.

Children's pockets feel pinch

By Patricia Clough

Britain's economy may be picking up but the effects have not reached the chewing gum-stuffed pockets of the nation's offspring. For the third year running cutbacks are due in spending on stink bombs and jelly babies.

The Pocket Money Monitor conducted for Wall's Ice Cream shows the average weekly income, comprising pocket money, earnings and gifts, of the 10 million children aged between five and 16 is £1.94p, 5 per cent up on last year but running more than 1 per cent behind inflation.

Parents are being more generous; average weekly pocket money is up 7 per cent to £1.17p, although it is still below the 1983 record of £1.22. But friends and relatives are being slightly tighter-fisted and earnings from paper rounds and odd jobs are down.

The monitor, which is conducted each year, continues to undermine the reputation of Scots for parsimony. Scottish parents, friends and relations are the most generous with pocket money and gifts, although children from the North-west are the most affluent overall.

Falklands survivor hit by cosh

From Tim Jones Cardiff

Spanish hostility over the Falklands campaign led to a badly-burned British survivor of the conflict being coshed by a security guard when he tried to enter a discotheque in Tenerife.

Mr Simon Weston, aged 23, a former Welsh Guardsman, described yesterday how his first holiday since the war turned into two weeks of tension when some Spaniards realized how he came by his injuries. He had gone to Tenerife as part of his rehabilitation.

Mr Weston, named recently as a Man of the Year, was aboard the Sir Galahad when it was hit and turned into a blazing inferno. Fifty men were killed and 67 injured.

Since then Mr Weston spent his months having his face and hands reconstructed. He said: "When some of the Spaniards realized I had been down to the Falklands and that's why I looked the way I did they started giving me a hard time."

After coshing him, the security guard "then stuck his pistol into my ribs. I took off. After all discretion is the better part of valour."

On another occasion, he was shunned at a restaurant after a waiter asked him how his face had been scarred.

"The waiter said 'Las Malvinas' and I replied 'yes the Falklands'." The waiter walked away without taking his order.

But Mr Weston said that he had received a marvellous reaction from British tourists. "It was my first real break since the Falklands and it was definitely worth it. It won't stop me going on holiday again although I wouldn't go to another Spanish area."

Mrs Pauline Hatfield, his mother, said: "It's true that Simoo did meet a certain amount of hostility the first week he was there but overall he enjoyed the holiday."

His holiday was paid for by a well-wisher.

Vegetarian diet may 'lead to deficiency'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A vegetarian diet can significantly reduce the incidence of a number of diseases related to meat fibre intake, according to a report published yesterday.

But, at the same time, a leading nutritionist told a London conference that those who ate no food of animal origin might be at risk of deficiency.

Professor John Catford, professor of health education and health promotion at the University of Wales College of Medicine, said that meat was an important component of a

Mother strangled her baby in hospital

A Birmingham mother strangled her 15-day-old son on the floor of a hospital lavatory, the city's Crown Court was told yesterday.

Christine Annesley, aged 25, of Reservoir Road, Barnat Green, Hereford and Worcester, said she had killed her son, James, "to spite" her executive husband because she did not believe he was giving her the support she needed, Mr David Crigman, for the prosecution, said.

She later said she hoped her actions would mean she would be sent to hospital.

She was sent home from the Queen Elizabeth Maternity Hospital in Birmingham after James was born last November. But she was readmitted some days later with the baby.

When the child was brought into her single room to be fed she locked herself in the adjoining lavatory and strangled him.

She was a mother who set herself "unattainable ideals and was concerned in case she fell short", Mr Michael Garrett, for the defence, said.

She was placed on probation for two years on condition she continued with psychiatric treatment.

Sony launches portable disc player in UK

Sony has decided to launch the world's smallest portable disc player, the Discman, in Britain next week.

The Discman, a compact disc hi-fi, allows any track to be chosen, and the machine can also be connected to amplifiers and speakers. It will cost about £260.

Britain has been chosen because sales of compact disc players have soared in the past few weeks. Sony expect it to be as successful as the Walkman, five million of which have been sold worldwide since its introduction five years ago.

End of the road for rare Camargue

By Robin Young

The last of the Rolls-Royce Camargues will roll out of the coachbuilder's workshops in Crewe next year. The company has decided the model's likely future sales would not justify the re-tooling that would be needed if the car was to be redesigned to meet proposed European legislation on interior and exterior projections.

When it was launched in 1975, the Camargue was hailed as "the most beautiful car that has ever been made".

It was the only time that Rolls-Royce had employed an outsider, the Italian Pininfarina, to give the body design "international styling appeal".

The design proved rather in advance of its time, and perversely has only just begun to be vogueish in America. Rolls-Royce's principal export market, as the order books are closed.

Of some 20 Camargues still to be built, only four are destined for British customers. About 500 Camargues have been built during the past 11 years, making it one of Rolls-Royce's greater rarities.

Though the company never likes to publicize the people who have purchased its cars, the best-known Camargue in Britain was certainly that owned by the disc-jockey and charity campaigner, Mr Jimmy Savile. More recently, though, he has switched to a Silver Spur.

Apart from its low-stung

The new young rich

You can see them most evenings in the smarter trattorias and brasseries. Their sources of income, and asks whether their future will be as rosy as their present.

Certainly you can hear them, braying at the top of their voices with phrases like:

"Is anyone doing Philip's BES scheme for importing retsina? He raised the first £250,000 over three lunches at Sweetings but they've still got to find another one-two-five."

They are the new City gents. Unnervingly young (25 to 35) and unpardonably well paid (£75,000 a year minimum) — a fact that is not a little irritating to those of their age and class who have somehow ended up on the wrong side of £25,000 p.a.

In this week's Spectator Nicholas Coleridge thoroughly examines their social habits and

Indeed, the rest of this week's Spectator is spectacularly rich.

John Mortimer makes his debut as The Spectator diarist, Auberon Waugh and Ferdinand Mount are on top form, and there's Alan Watkins on Michael Foot, William Deedes on his first day in Fleet Street 55 years ago, and Lord Gowrie on David Hockney.

And the best part about it is that you can enjoy The Spectator this and every Friday for less than the price of a glass of good claret. See your newsagent.

THE SPECTATOR

Labour's £24b spending plans under fire

TREASURY

With the Budget a mere five days away, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the Commons that he was confident that the rate of inflation would come down.

During the exchanges, Treasury ministers indulged on several occasions in the well-known expression that MPs should await the Budget statement. However, Conservative backbenchers bombarded ministers about Treasury calculations that Labour Party spending pledges, set out in a recent written reply by Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, totalled £24 billion.

Mr MacGregor explained to the House that he stuck to that figure but that he had written the previous day to Mr Hattersley admitting that one of the figures he had put in should be down and another should be up. Mr Hattersley had not given an alternative figure.

If it was going to be much lower it would be interesting to see which of the Labour spending commitments Mr Hattersley was going to knock out. What was interesting was that Mr Hattersley did not wish to deny the figure of £24 billion. Mr Lawson at one stage said it was interesting the Labour Party had not been able to deny the accuracy of that costing.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab) said Conservative MPs were trying to make the figure stick by constantly repeating it as though a lie constantly repeated became the truth.

The issue of Labour's spending was raised when Mr Lawson was asked during question time what he estimated would be the additional revenue in the year 1986-87 if the marginal rate of tax on personal incomes in excess of £30,000 was increased to 100 per cent.

Individual taxable incomes in excess of £30,000 (the repaid) total some £3.5 billion of which almost £2 billion is already paid in income tax. The theoretical additional yield of 100 per cent tax on this slice of income would be about £1.5 billion, but the actual yield would be closer to zero as relatively few people are prepared to work for nothing.

Mr Christopher Hope (Southampton, Lib) said it is a grave deception for any public expenditure programme of an additional £24 billion could be financed merely by taxing the better-off. It really means that those on even well below average earnings would have to pay substantially higher income-tax.

Mr Lawson: That is right. He is on the ball. There is an alternative. It is possible because they have said they will not raise

the basic rate of income-tax, that they might have recourse to VAT. In which case, arithmetically they would require a 41 per cent rate of VAT.

Mr Ian Wigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): The burden of taxation on individuals has increased under this Government. A recent ministerial reply showed that the Government would have to reduce the basic

Labour government of which Mr Wigglesworth was a supporter.

The total revenue from taxation is up because incomes and prosperity have increased very considerably. As for the future, I welcome the fact that he would like to see taxes down. So would I.

We have not yet been able (he said later) to cost absolutely the proposals put forward for the Alliance parties which frequently conflict, but we shall get around to that in due course.

Meanwhile, we have been able to cost properly, correctly and objectively the programme of the Labour Party and it is interesting that they have not been able to deny the accuracy of that costing.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab): The programme of a Labour government will not only be funded out of taxation of the more highly paid, but out of an industrial strategy for growth, as against the Government's strategy for recession and the many billions of pounds given away by the Government in the form of concessions on capital transfer tax and capital gains tax which would be sufficient to finance the programmes of the Labour Government.

Mr Lawson: There is no way in which Labour can find £24 billion from capital taxes. Not even the last Labour Govern-

ment, which introduced new and more punitive capital taxes, was able to find anything like that, but had to go cap-in-hand to the International Monetary Fund 10 years ago.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Totterham, Lab): Which section of the Treasury established the £24 billion figure? Was it wholly the work of the Treasury? Will he give details of the assessments which have been provided by Treasury officials? Mr Lawson: Treasury ministers collected a list of the various public pledges to which the Labour Party is committed and then asked Treasury officials to give an objective costing of those pledges. They did that and the figure arrived at was £24 billion.

Earlier, Mr MacGregor repeated his belief that the Labour Party's public expenditure proposals would cost about £24 billion.

He was replying to Mr Michael Fallon (Darlington, C) who said the one thing certain to destroy jobs was a £24 billion public spending spree, as planned by the Labour Party.

Mr MacGregor agreed with him and said this would lead either to increased taxation or to increased borrowing, which would clobber industry.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, indicated that

he believed the extra public expenditure involved in the Labour Party's proposals would be in the region of £24 billion.

Mr Bob Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) said last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer scribbled his Budget as a budget for jobs. Since then unemployment had increased by over 114,000.

When the Chancellor sits down on Tuesday (he added) will he tell us, in language the unemployed will understand, is unemployment going to go up or down?

Mr MacGregor replied that the last Budget announced significant increases in expenditure on employment and training measures for 1986/7, such as the YTS.

Mr David Winstick (Walsall North, Lab) said most people were now paying more taxes, directly and indirectly, than they were in 1979.

Had the Government estimated the amount of money lost to the Treasury as a result of mass unemployment? If those people had been allowed to earn a living, how much more would the revenue have gained through proper taxation?

Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, replied that people were paying less tax at all levels than they were when the Conservatives came to power.

Nirex proposal 'contrary to lessons of past'

NUCLEAR WASTE

Nuclear disposal sites that stored waste near the surface would never be willingly accepted if they contained material of intermediate life expectancy, Mr Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C) said when opening a short debate in the Commons.

He said the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive (Nirex) had proposed detailed geological investigations at four possible sites - Fulbrook airfield, Lincolnshire, in his constituency; Ebbw Vale, South Wales; Essex; and South Killingholme, South Humberside.

The Nirex scheme was contrary to the recommendations earlier this week of the Environment Select Committee, the weight of informed opinion and to the lessons of the past. It also ignored the existence of other established disposal methods. It reflected a certain complacency, a lack of sensitivity and lack of research, as well as incompetence, by the British nuclear industry.

Those of us who represent the people who live in the areas containing the proposed sites (he said) are simply not going to deliver the British nuclear industry from the consequences of its own actions and its own folly. He was pleased to see the Chief Whip (Mr John Wakeham) whose Essex constituency was affected by the proposals, giving powerful support by being present on the Government front bench for the debate.

discussions which had enormous consequences for the local communities involved. Most MPs shared the "not in my back yard" approach, but if nuclear waste was undesirable in their back yards they should ask themselves why it was suitable for somebody else's.

The Government should immediately set up an independent inquiry into the continuation of the nuclear industry.

Sir Bernard Brainer (Castle Point, C) said that there was a long-established convention that chief whips did not express their views in the chamber but in the corridors today Mr John Wakeham, the Government chief whip and MP for Colchester South and Maldon, who was in his place on the front bench, must not be construed as expressing indifference or inactivity.

Mr Wakeham had already expressed his total opposition to the prospect of Broadwell in his constituency, being used as a site for the other proposed sites, in that he had the full support of his Essex colleagues and of Essex County Council.

Mr Wakeham's constituents were angry and he was, in various ways, with them. Broadwell was close to areas of rapid population growth and had links with the proposed site were inadequate, and the area was totally unsuitable because it was subject to flooding. Could it be said that there would be no repetition of the great tide of 1953? Sea defences should be mended before embarking on a crash-cut scheme of this kind.

A serious geological fault near the proposed site had led to claims of earthquake tremors being felt in the area. For instance, the centre of the great Essex earthquake of 1884, in which at least three people died, was only four miles away from the proposed site.

The proposal was madness and it would be preferable to tear it up.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Cleethorpes, C) said:

No work had been done on alternative ways of dealing with the problem of nuclear waste. Nirex was an unacceptable and neglected body. Its representatives had gone up and down the country causing distress and had no idea of how to treat local people.

Mr Nicholas Lyell (Mid Bedfordshire, C) said that if consideration was to continue to be given to the dumping of waste in what was now called near-surface trenches it should be low-level only.

Mr Eric Huffer (Liverpool, Lab) said that there were people trying to get rid of the old problems in the Mersey and had growing all the time this other problem of the Irish Sea, which slowly but surely was becoming a nuclear cesspool.

Mr David Clark (South Shields, Lab) for the Opposition, said that whatever the decisions, they must be made so that if mistakes were found the situation could be retrieved. Nirex had been most insensitive in the way it had gone about this. Mr Angela Rumbold, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said the Government took the public concern on this issue very seriously. She hoped she could allay some of the fears that had been expressed.

The Government would try to ensure that the whole selection and evaluation of a site was done as openly as possible.

We shall ensure (she added) that any radioactive doses from the disposal site are insignificant.

Any disposal of waste under the sea bed would require a licence by the Minister of Agriculture under the Food and Environmental Protection Act.

The nuclear industry was probably the most highly regulated industry, and Nirex would not be an exception.

Press should not name rape victims

CRIME

The naming of rape victims by the media was criticized by the Prime Minister during question time in the Commons.

Mrs Thatcher said rape was a uniquely barbaric offence and the recent guidelines issued by the Lord Chief Justice had led to much more severe sentencing.

I think the whole of the media (she said) bear a heavy responsibility for the way in which they report crimes of violence. In rape cases, the naming of the victim must not be given by law after the charge has been made, but there are certain customs and conventions which obtain between the commission of this terrible offence and the court which one would hope would be observed by the press.

She was replying to Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) who suggested that the behaviour of the press and media played some part in creating a climate of opinion in which so many rapes and sexual assaults on women took place.

He asked her to dissociate herself from the ridicule suffered the previous day by Ms Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab) when she was interviewed on a BBC news programme about naked women from newspapers.

He also urged Mrs Thatcher to use her influence to bring together newspaper proprietors and editors.

Sir Edward Gardner (Fylde, C) said there seemed to be a growing and strong link between crime, including rape, and the widespread misuse of heroin and cocaine.

Will the Prime Minister confirm (he asked) that this Government is giving and will continue to give the highest priority and all the resources that may be necessary to meet the terrible dangers of drug abuse?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I agree that the use of drugs makes all crime worse than it would otherwise be, particularly crimes of violence. We will give every priority to tackling this terrible cancer in our lives.

The law was being changed to make it easier to get at the proceeds of that dastardly crime.

Kinnock wants more spent on crime prevention

BURGLARIES

Challenged by Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, to provide new money to make homes and the streets safer from crime, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons amid loud Labour interruptions, that she would not be able to do so.

Mr Kinnock said there had been an alarming and massive increase in crime of 41 per cent since 1978. Would the Prime Minister ensure that new money was allocated to local authorities to assist them in their efforts to make streets and homes safer for ordinary citizens, especially the elderly?

Mrs Thatcher said Mr Kinnock knew that extra money had been given to local authorities through the police grant. Some money was expended, too, under the Community Programme

to further crime prevention programmes.

Mr Kinnock commented that that answer was somewhat misleading. At the crime prevention seminar Mrs Thatcher had held in January, the only new money even referred to had been £50 million to be taken from the housing improvement programme.

That would be an inadequate sum (he said) from the wrong source. The sums involved in improving door locks, safety standards of doors, lighting, telephone entry systems and other security additions need to be paid for and can appropriately be aided by the Government.

Mrs Thatcher, amid interruptions from the Labour benches, said: Most people will, and should, be in a position to provide for crime prevention on their own. Yes, of course they should. Mr Kinnock, with almost every question, wants to put his hand deeper into the taxpayer's pocket.

The Opposition does not care how much it takes away from the taxpayer, and it is better for most people able to do these things to do so.

For the elderly who cannot afford it is a proper use of money from the community programme. For instance, and which has been the programme to help in crime prevention.

Mr Kinnock: Much of what she said might be true in Dulwich but it is not necessarily true on housing estates throughout the country.

If we do not find resources to help old people and poor people protect their homes and streets, we are going to have to find it in any case to help the police detect the crime too late and after the damage has been done.

Mrs Thatcher: He should reflect on what the Government has done in the way of providing extra police and extra equipment, and he goes and shakes hands with Bernie Grant and Scargill.

Rate of inflation will come down - Lawson

PROSPECTS

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is confident that the rate of inflation will come down, he said during questions. The present rate of inflation was not satisfactory, even though it was lower than it was under the last Labour Government.

He said that he would be dealing with the prospects for inflation in the Budget next Tuesday.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, asked the Chancellor to explain why the British inflation rate was now running faster and higher than the inflation rate in any of their OECD competitors?

Mr Lawson: I have said that I do not regard the present rate of inflation as satisfactory, even though it is far lower than it was during the time of the Labour Government. I am confident that it will come down.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) will be coming from the remark that he said the only equivalent industrial nation with a higher rate of inflation is Italy. Was that his aim when he took office two years ago?

Mr Lawson: The financial spokesman for the Liberals and SDP has said that the programme would produce inflation of 7.5 per cent. I shall be dealing with the prospects for inflation in the Budget. I do not regard the present level of inflation as satisfactory even though it is far lower than was ever achieved under Labour.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Backbench motion on management reorganisation of NHS.

As a result, 10,507 interviews have been held and some 80 per cent of those interviewed have agreed to follow up a positive opportunity.

He added later that the Government was now studying the initial results.

RUC chief calls for tribunal to decide on parade routes

From Richard Ford Belfast

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, has suggested that an independent public tribunal could consider decisions on the banning and re-routing of traditional parades in Northern Ireland.

Such a proposal would be part of an effort to end allegations that the police are acting politically when they make recommendations about "loyalist" and republican parades, and that RUC decisions are being made at the behest of the Irish Republic.

Sir John's suggestion yesterday comes after violent demonstrations and controversy over loyalist parades last summer, and with traditional Orange institutions threatening not to negotiate with police over any re-routings this summer.

Sir John is critical of parade organizers, arguing that their attitudes often make the task of the police more difficult, while the community becomes entrenched and embittered.

In his report for 1985, Sir John said that out of 1,897 loyalist and 223 republican parades only three were banned and 22 re-routed last year.

He said that there was opposition to the re-routing

the community will become totally entrenched and embittered.

Sir John devoted a section of his report to the Anglo-Irish agreement and its effect on policing, along with "mischievous attempts" by public representatives to cause concern or disquiet within the force's ranks.

Unionist politicians are warned that subversive organizations might attempt to legitimize themselves by becoming involved in protests against the agreement. "Responsible leaders should be fully aware of this danger, clearly dissociate themselves from such people and ensure that their followers are not duped or misled."

The report showed that terrorism in the province was at its lowest level since 1970 with shootings and explosions down by 30 per cent and the Provisional IRA's campaign increasingly concentrated in border areas.

Sir John praised his officers for their outstanding courage. "Each and every day, whatever the danger, whatever the call of duty, they demonstrate that they are totally committed to defeating terrorism."

Of para-military organizations, Sir John said: "Stripped of the double talk and propaganda, their purpose is murder, destruction, intimidation, the perpetuation of hatred."

Spain goes to court over Goya

Spain made its first High Court move yesterday to recover a Goya masterpiece.

The kingdom of Spain took auctioneers Christie's to court to seek to prevent the auction next month of "La Marquesa de Santa Cruz" said to be worth £3 million.

A full hearing of its claim for a declaration that the export document allowing the painting to leave Spain was false is to be heard shortly, but at a 45-minute private hearing yesterday the Vice-Chancellor Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson dealt with preliminary issues.

The painting is being put up for sale by Lord Wimborne who bought it in Switzerland in 1983 from Spanish businessman Pedro Saorin Bosch who obtained the export licence. The Spanish authorities claim the licence was invalid.

The conduct of a sheriff who loudly sang two different versions of an anti-Roman Catholic song, called The Sash My Father Wore, during a criminal trial was condemned by three judges in the Judiciary Appeal Court, Edinburgh, yesterday.

They said the conduct of Sheriff David Smith at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court last June in asking the accused to sing, showing annoyance at his refusal and then singing himself, was deplorable in the highest degree.

But the court refused to quash the conviction of Robert Hawthorn, aged 25, a labourer, of Seaton Terrace, Irvine, who claimed the sheriff humiliated him.

He had been jailed for six months for kicking Raymond Hay, of Sophia Crescent, Irvine, on the head. He was on bail pending the appeal.

Job schemes go well

Early indications from the nine pilot job start schemes were encouraging, Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, said during question time in the House of Lords.

He said the Government was studying the results urgently to see if the scheme could be widened.

Answering a question by Lady Fisher of Rednal (Lab) on response to the pilot scheme, he told peers: In the nine weeks to

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New roads 'no cure for delays'

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

London is doomed to suffer permanent traffic delays unless there is a change in Government policy, a leading traffic expert said yesterday.

The present policy of building more roads is not a cure because if more capacity is provided on the roads, or more car parks are made available, more car users will come into the centre, Dr Martio Mogridge of the Transport Studies Group at University College, London, said.

Dr Mogridge admitted motorists' addiction to car commuting, but said that in one important respect it was misplaced. Actual driving times were certainly faster by car than public transport, at an average 12 mph.

But if the time taken to park and walk from parking space to destination is added, the two journeys are equally slow, at an average 5 mph.

The way to speed up traffic is to improve rail services, Dr Mogridge believes, especially by providing new London routes, such as the Snow Hill connection between northern and southern commuter lines.

And traffic through the Dartford Tunnel has grown by a further 2,000-3,000 vehicles a day since the Swanley-Sevenshoe section of the M25 was opened last month, the road pressure group Movement for London has said.

Lords call for EEC milk cut

By George Hill

A 3 per cent cut in milk production should be enforced in all EEC member states, the House of Lords European Communities committee has recommended.

The committee is worried that proposed voluntary cuts in quotas will not be enough to eliminate a "milk lake" which last year amounted to more than 20 million tonnes.

Member states which fail to reach their target by a specified date should be required to effect the outstanding reduction by compulsory cut in quotas across the board, the committee says.

Tenant farmers in Britain should not be allowed to surrender milk quotas on the land they farm without the consent of their landlords, who should be entitled to a share of the rewards of surrender, the committee says.

The proposed EEC regulation on quotas pays insufficient regard to landlords' interests, it adds.

If a reduction in national production is achieved, the rules need not prohibit someone who has surrendered a quota from resuming milk production if he can obtain a quota from elsewhere, the committee proposes.

Milk Production (Outgoers Scheme): Seventh Report of Select Committee of House of Lords. European Communities Select Committee. HMSO, £7.20.

Court criticizes the singing sheriff

The conduct of a sheriff who loudly sang two different versions of an anti-Roman Catholic song, called The Sash My Father Wore, during a criminal trial was condemned by three judges in the Judiciary Appeal Court, Edinburgh, yesterday.

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MPS stop deficit ombudsman

Willis account hit and

MPs seek to stop council defiance of ombudsmen

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Legislation to end the situation in which local authorities can defy the rulings of local ombudsmen and refuse to provide aggrieved citizens with a remedy will be sought by a select committee of MPs in a forthcoming report.

The MPs will urge that people should have the right to sue any local authority which fails to remedy an injustice caused by maladministration.

The recommendation is likely to be opposed by the Government which has made clear its view that it is against legislation for the enforcement of remedies and says that such enforcement through the courts "would formalize all investigations and thereby make them lengthier and costlier".

But the select committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration is understood to be "extremely dissatisfied" with the present position.

At present a person who takes a complaint to the local ombudsman and obtains a ruling that there has been injustice caused by maladministration has no remedy where the authority refuses to act.

Since 1974, there have been 100 findings of maladministration and injustice in England where the local

authority refused to provide a satisfactory remedy.

MPs' concern that "such an extent of defiance by local authorities risks bringing the ombudsman system into disrepute" led to their setting up an inquiry.

The right to enforce a remedy in the courts was strongly supported by the Commission for Local Administration in England, the body which staffs the three local ombudsmen.

"The situation is bad because injustice should always be remedied - and without the need for time and money to be spent cajoling reluctant authorities", it said.

Under the Northern Ireland system, which MPs are expected to propose, the complainant could apply to the county court for the authority to pay an amount the court thought right to compensate for the injustice.

Where money is not an appropriate remedy, such as where a council refused to rehouse a complainant, the court would have power to order the authority to take or refrain from taking a certain action.

But the Department of the Environment, in response to this proposal, said the right solution was to "act by persuasion".

Royal adieu after 26 happy days

From Stephen Taylor, Adelaide

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh waved farewell to Australia from the steps of an RAAF jet yesterday, 26 days after setting out on what has been an arduous and eventful, but also, aides say, a remarkably satisfying and happy royal tour.

They were seen off by Sir Ninian Stephen, the Governor-General, and Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister who, whatever his own sentiments, will be in no doubt that Australians still want their Queen. The prevalent national mood is a comfortable acceptance that Australia will one day be a republic, but for the time being that day looks a long way off.

The final day, as well as the farewells, brought a last demonstration - and an apology from two of the 12 people known to have been arrested in the course of the tour.

While the Duke was at Flinders University to unveil a bust of Matthew Flinders, who charted the Australian coast, a group of about a dozen students held placards protesting that money had been spent on the ceremony rather than on campus clinic facilities.

During the ceremony one student called out: "Long live the republic of Australia." The Duke, standing near the microphone but apparently unaware that it was switched on, murmured: "That's a good idea."

Meanwhile, the household made public a letter to the Queen from two young men arrested after they attempted, unsuccessfully, to spray the Royal couple with a fire hose from the top of a building.

Apologizing for "any inconvenience" the letter said: "The turning on of the hose from the top of the building after you had entered the hotel was the result of high spirits and was an act of spontaneous stupidity which we truly regret."



Fond farewell: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (below) return waves from officials at Adelaide airport yesterday.

"There was no premeditation or any thought of protest at your visit. We do hope you will enjoy the rest of your visit to Australia. We have the honour to remain Madam, your most humble and obedient servants." It was signed L. McBride and Fred Saad.

In 26 days the Royal couple visited: Nepal, New Zealand and Australia, and stopped in 12 towns and cities, with a walkabout in each. One intriguing aspect of the Australian tour was the way it highlighted shifting national moods.

New Zealand, traditionally regarded as perhaps the most royalist of Commonwealth countries, is now all questioning of the royal link. It would be a mistake to read too much into bare-bottom protests, or even two thrown eggs, but New Zealanders have acquired, through the Anzus and Rainbow Warrior affairs and the consequent raising of their international profile, a greater sense of independence and confidence.

Australia, on the other hand, which was once seen from New Zealand as a sort of big brother more inclined to question and criticize the "motherland", has put behind it the bitterness towards royalty which arose from the dismissal of the Whitlam Government a decade ago.

A feature of the tour has been the extensive and positive coverage it received in the Australian media. Leading articles have been uniformly welcoming, prompting Mr Michael Shea, the Queen's press secretary, to remark: "There has never been a warmer response from editorial opinion here."

Australia will be looking forward to another royal visit in 1988, the year of the bicentenary. Appropriately the man in charge of organizing it is an Australian.

Sir William Heseltine, who next month takes over from Sir Philip Moore as the Queen's private secretary, will be the first Commonwealth citizen to hold the post.



Accuser of Kohl quits in style

Bonn (Reuters) - Herr Otto Schily, the Greens' MP who has prompted unprecedented legal proceedings against Chancellor Helmut Kohl, resigned from Parliament with a characteristic flourish.

Addressing the chamber before making way for a successor, he accused West Germany's established parties of a huge cover-up of illegal business donations to their funds.

"I do not expect any self-criticism... from those involved because they are too concerned about their positions and have sunk too deep into the mud of political donations," he said.

Herr Schily, aged 53, was speaking during a debate on the final report of a parliamentary committee which for more than two years investigated allegations that the giant Flick industrial concern provided party funds in return for tax favours.

Crash hostess flies again

Tokyo (UPI) - Yumi Ochiai, aged 27, the JAL air stewardess who survived the worst single plane crash in history, left hospital and flew again, home to Osaka on the route from Tokyo that her Boeing 747 took when it hit a mountainside in August.

"I still want to fly, and I want to continue as a flight attendant," she said, boarding a plane for the first time since the crash in central Japan, in which 520 of the 524 people aboard died.

Wordy work

Peking (AP) - Work by 15 Chinese universities on a comprehensive dictionary of Chinese characters, in eight volumes with 56,000 entries and 20 million characters, is complete after 10 years.

Tokyo switch

Tokyo (Reuters) - Long known as workaholics, Japanese are being urged by the Government to take life easier and to help the economy by spending more on leisure.

Bowing out

Wellington (Reuters) - Mr Frank O'Flynn, aged 67, controversial New Zealand Defence Minister, said he would retire from politics at the next election.

NFU fears bias over pesticides

By Stephen Goodwin

Government plans to charge for independent guidance on the use of pesticides could force farmers to rely on the potentially biased advice of the chemical manufacturers, a Commons select committee was told yesterday.

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) is concerned that greater dependence on the trade will run counter to its desire for sparing use of pesticides which could be harmful to health.

In evidence to the all-party agriculture committee, the NFU said the charges, to be introduced by the Agricultural Development Advisory Service (Adas) in 1987, could result in farmers getting less balanced options.

Mr Christopher French, vice-president of the NFU, said that farmers valued the free, independent advice. But with the introduction of charges, they would be more inclined to take the advice of chemical companies.

Three police charged over pub assault

Three policemen were yesterday charged with assaulting a man at a public house.

Police Constables Victor Weekes, aged 24, Albert Swanston, aged 26, and Michael Wearing, aged 27, from Rochester Row police station, Westminster, central London, are to appear at Bow Street Magistrates Court next Thursday.

They are accused of assaulting Paul Lally at the Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, Westminster, last Saturday.

The officers also face two charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice by falsely accusing Mr Lally and his brother of criminal offences. PC Weekes is also charged with assaulting Mr Paul Lally at the police station.

Students to sue Geldof

Bob Geldof was served with a writ for damages yesterday by students at York University, who claim he undermined their efforts to help charities.

The students are taking the action against the Live Aid organizer after a concert last year, with his band the Boomtown Rats. Their show at the university's Central Hall had the audience dancing in the aisles, which led to a ban on all future pop concerts.

Students' union leaders were told after a concert in 1984 to stop people standing up or dancing at concerts in the hall. They were warned that if they broke the rule future events would be banned.

When the Boomtown Rats were booked for the charity concert as part of rag week in February last year, Bob Geldof was asked not to call people down to the front of the stage. The request was also written into the £2,750 contract.

On the night, student leaders claimed, he ignored their pleas. Selby District Council told the students that they could not hold any more concerts.

Mr Neville Parkinson, director of environmental health for Selby council, said: "Because of the fierce seating the hall is extremely dangerous if people stand up like that. If someone half way up loses their balance and falls forward they push everyone else down like a pack of cards."

Mr Peter Gildener, solicitor for York Students Union, said that their action comes after a breakdown in talks with the singer's management. "Mr Geldof's solicitors have maintained that they consider the students' union acted recklessly in allowing Mr Geldof and the Boomtown Rats to perform."

Mr Mick Owen, of Concert Publishing, Mr Geldof's manager, said yesterday: "If anyone is in the wrong it is them. They should not be in the place as a venue if it is dangerous."

Spain's vote for Nato

González triumph boosts shares

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Rises of up to 12 points on Spain's stock exchanges yesterday reflected the stability of the fundamental pro-Western option achieved through Wednesday's referendum decision to stay in the Atlantic alliance.

Brokers said such increases in one day had not been seen for decades.

Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, adopting a sober tone during a moment of personal victory, appealed to all Spain's political forces to help him now to lay the basis for a permanent national con-

stitution on foreign and defence policies.

But the 39 per cent "no" vote wanting Spain to leave Nato, coupled with the 40 per cent abstention rate - the highest in any national poll since the advent of democracy - allowed the Government's opponents also to claim victory.

Flanked by a Spanish flag, Señor González read a message to his fellow countrymen on television declaring: "The result is a victory for all the Spanish people and not any section of it."

A big swing towards "yes" in the final phase of the campaign, after several public opinion polls revealed a week earlier, clear majorities for leaving Nato, undoubtedly lay behind the 52 per cent victory which exceeded the Government's expected margin.

After the result, anxiously

awaited by Spain's partners both in the European Community and the US, Madrid can now drop its ambiguous stance towards Nato and participate more fully.

But it will do so with three conditions now democratically sanctioned - non-nuclear status for Spanish territory, non-integration into Nato's command structure and a progressive reduction of the US presence and bases on Spanish soil.

Washington had been awaiting the referendum outcome before continuing preliminary negotiations with Madrid on the issue.

It was the 11 million abstentions which caused Señor Manuel Fraga, the right-wing Opposition leader, to argue that his instructions had been obeyed by the voters.

But Señor Oscar Alzaga, the Christian Democrat leader who belongs to Señor Fraga's coalition, stressed his satisfaction with the overall result of Spain staying in the alliance.

The Communists claimed all the six million "no" voters were communists and pacifists.

Considerations other than Nato emerged dramatically in the Basque country where the votes doubled the "yes" votes in a higher than national turnout, and in Catalonia where the majority abstained.

The party of Señor González won essentially in rural areas such as Andalusia and Castile and in Madrid and Valencia where urban Socialist supporters at the 1982 general election clearly returned to the fold under the impact of the Prime Minister's barnstorming tactics in the last hours of campaigning.

Leading article, page 13.

Manila close to rebel pact

The new Government of President Aquino is close to a breakthrough in ceasefire negotiations to end almost two decades of fighting by Communist and Muslim rebels.

Mr Cuenco expects Mrs Aquino will soon proclaim amnesties for both forces.

But Mrs Aquino is insisting that the Communist rebels first lay down their arms. Although the Communist Party central committee has rejected that, Mr Cuenco is confident many of the estimated 16,000 NPA members are prepared to do so. The Communist political leaders admit to misreading the popular sentiment and underestimating the extent of the

From Keith Dalton, Manila

exited Muslim rebel commanders who have returned to discuss ending the rebellion.

Mr Cuenco expects Mrs Aquino will soon proclaim amnesties for both forces.

But Mrs Aquino is insisting that the Communist rebels first lay down their arms. Although the Communist Party central committee has rejected that, Mr Cuenco is confident many of the estimated 16,000 NPA members are prepared to do so. The Communist political leaders admit to misreading the popular sentiment and underestimating the extent of the

people's power movement which ousted Mr Marcos. Likewise, Mrs Aquino's purge of 23 Marcos generals, the reorganization of the military and replacement of abusive local officials could rob the NPA of new recruits.

● WASHINGTON: Mr Jovito Salonga, head of the Philippine commission investigating Mr Marcos's wealth, has arrived in Hawaii and the Reagan Administration has agreed to give him and Congressional investigators copies of 1,500 financial documents Mr Marcos brought with him (Michael Binyon writes).

TUC Women's Conference

Willis accuses Tories of hit and run tactics

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, attacked the Government yesterday for organizing a "car boot sale" of Britain's profitable industries.

Mr Willis told the TUC Women's Conference in Leicester that members of the Cabinet had also set about a "collective hit and run" of workers.

He accused the Government of attacking women, children and their teachers and the sick. "They are all target groups. And while some government ministers have set about this collective hit and run of the workforce, other members of the Cabinet are busy organizing a car boot sale of the profitable industries. Now comes British Leyland: contents to the highest bidder."

Mr Willis said that since the Government came to power seven years ago, employers had been encouraged to slash wages and to cut corners on health and safety. "The Government, have all but aban-

doned our greatest asset, the talents of our children, by refusing to invest in either the fabric of our schools or in our teachers.

Mr Willis praised the growing activity of women in trade unions. It had happened in stark contrast to the seven barren years of government.

The conference was told that women are being given a raw deal at work and suffering a widening gap on pay.

Mrs Anita Lanning, of TASS, the white collar section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said more women were now working. She added: "The gap between men's and women's earnings is widening while the increase in female employment remains largely due to women taking on low-paid, part-time jobs."

Mrs Lanning said women had failed to convince men in the Labour movement of the need to make equal pay a priority. She called on the TUC to evolve a strategy to improve women's wages.

Buoyant Carrington applauds result

From Richard Owen and Frederick Bonhart, Brussels

In buoyant mood, Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, yesterday greeted the result of the Spanish referendum as "good for Europe, good for the alliance and good for Spain."

Consultations would now go forward between Nato and Madrid over Spain's role in the alliance in the light of the three conditions of membership laid down in the referendum: the armed forces would not be integrated into Nato's military structure; no nuclear weapons would be stationed on Spanish soil; and American troops in Spain would be cut back.

With Spain's Ambassador to Nato, Señor Jaime de Ojeda, at his side, Lord Carrington said the result meant that a major European country could now play its full part in Nato and the EEC.

The conditions are not a cause of serious concern in Nato. Lord Carrington said the American troops in Spain

were not a matter for the alliance.

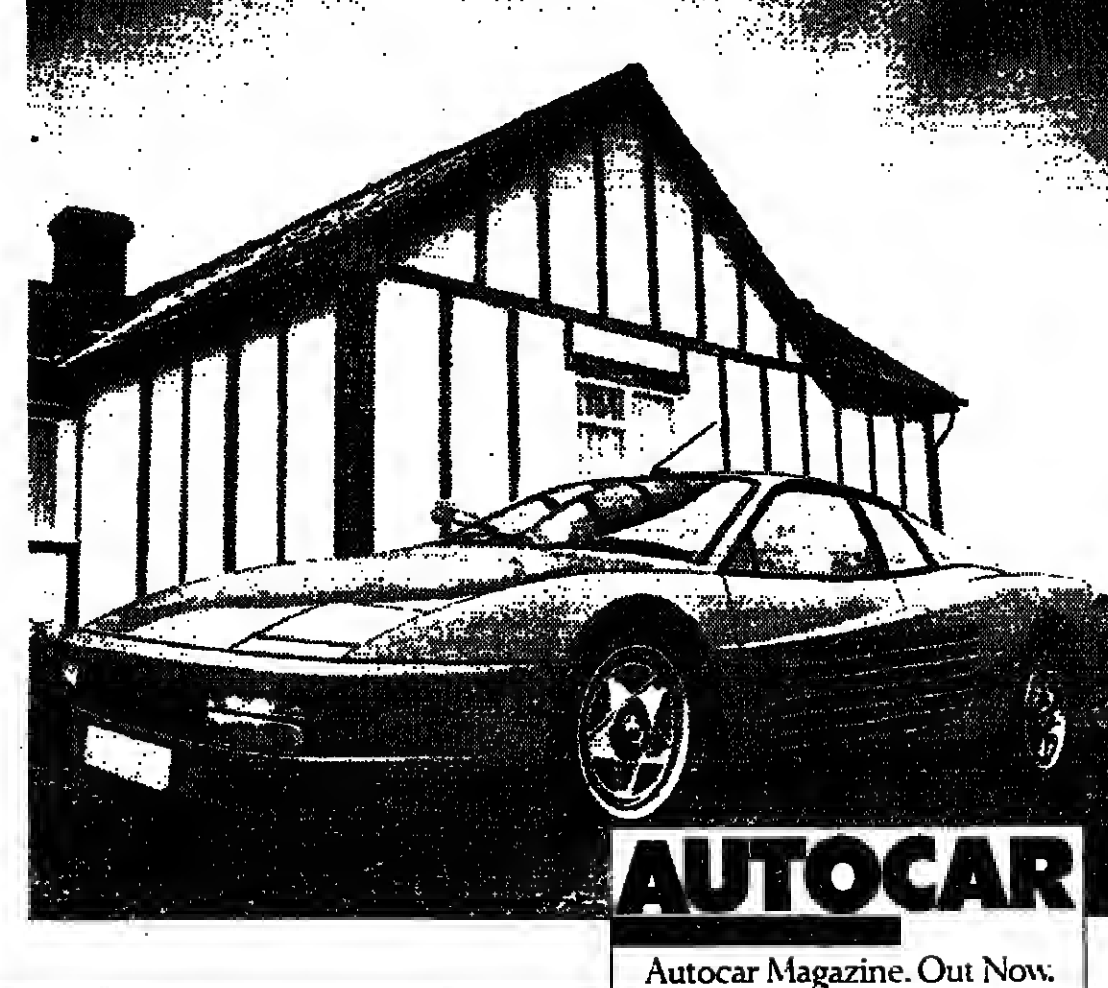
Señor de Ojeda pointed out that before Spain joined the alliance US forces were carrying out Nato missions in his country. These were no longer needed now its membership was confirmed. The vote was not to be seen as anti-American but as reflecting a wish for a reduction in foreign military forces and the transfer of their functions to the Spanish military.

● WASHINGTON: The US State Department said: "In strengthening the security of its democratic values, Spain has also strengthened that of its friends and allies." The vote had also "reinforced the sense of confidence shared by members of the Western democratic community."

● LONDON: The Foreign Office said the vote had "historic importance for the Western world. As a fellow member of the alliance, we warmly welcome the decision of the Spanish people."

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New Swedish Premier keeps Palme Cabinet in his search for unity

The new Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, yesterday steered his country into a post-Olof Palme era in which the emphasis will be on national unity and consensus.

He signalled clearly an end to the often bitter political infighting which characterized the various administrations of his assassinated predecessor.

"We shall seek solutions to problems that unite the whole country", he said. "There will of course be differences between the political parties in the future. But we shall try extra hard to reach unity and avoid conflict."

He stressed that he had learnt most in his political life from Mr Palme's predecessor, Tage Erlander, who is seen by Swedes as a *landsfader*, or national father figure, a man who sought consensus for the sweeping social and economic reforms introduced after the war that made Sweden a model social democracy.

Mr Palme, shot dead in a Stockholm street on February 28, broke with this tradition and was often accused of arrogance and of making unwarranted personal attacks on his opponents in Parliament.

Mr Carlsson said he would seek particularly to avoid

discussion in the immediate aftermath of Mr Palme's assassination, but he ruled out any possibility of a coalition between his Social Democratic party and any of the non-socialist opposition parties.

His Cabinet, he said, would be unchanged: no one will fill his now-vacant post of deputy Prime Minister.

In the event of Mr Carlsson's death, the premiership would be taken over by the most senior member of the government. At present that is the Agriculture Minister, Mr Svante Lundkvist, aged 67.

As well as his duties as deputy to Mr Palme, Mr Carlsson also had charge of environmental questions. Mrs Birgitta Dahl, minister with responsibility for energy questions, will take over this role.

Mr Carlsson is himself expected to continue to deal with many environmental questions, however, including the acid rain issue, when he holds discussions at the weekend with Lord Wintlelaw, Mrs Thatcher's deputy, who will attend Mr Palme's state funeral tomorrow.

The new Prime Minister said government changes had not been necessary. "We already had a strong govern-

ment, one of the strongest since the war. I saw no reason to change this."

Mr Carlsson said he would take a keen interest in foreign affairs. "There is no going back to the days when Sweden was isolated from the rest of the world. I shall spend the same amount of time on foreign affairs as Olof Palme. However, I don't guarantee that I will be able to get the same results."

Mr Carlsson confirmed that he will visit Moscow this year. Relations with the Soviet Union had been damaged by many incidents in which Soviet submarines had violated Swedish waters, "but relations are improving. We are interested in having friendly relations with the Soviet Union."

He also hinted at measures "of a selective character" aimed at boosting investment in Swedish industry.

The Prime Minister said he was surrounded by very strict security, but hoped to preserve "a private sector" in his life, as Mr Palme had done.

Would he, as Mr Palme did the night he was murdered, go to the cinema late at night without a bodyguard? "I hope so, yes," he replied.



As the regional and national elections near, posters abound in Paris and other cities — one for the RPR leader, M Jacques Chirac, has been pasted over with a National Front message, while the other poster shows an untouched M Le Pen.

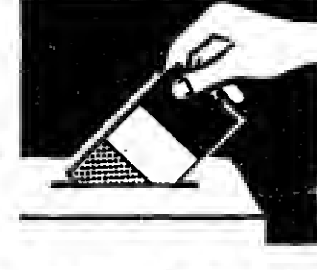
Le Pen's campaign loses its fizz

From Diana Geddes Mantes-la-Jolie

The fizz has gone out of the National Front campaign. Maybe it was because we were gathered in a shabby 1950s cinema in a small run-down town on a cold night, or maybe it was because M Jean-Marie Le Pen, the Front's leader, was unable to produce his usual fire and brimstone at the end of another exhausting day's campaigning. But one had the feeling that the extreme right was running out of steam.

The latest polls suggest that the National Front will get between 6.5 per cent and 8 per cent of the vote, giving them 15-24 seats in the assembly. That is certainly an achievement for a party which has never had any representatives in Parliament, and which only three years ago was rarely polling more than 2 per cent.

But it is nevertheless very disappointing for a movement which, swept up on a wave of



popular revolt against the economic crisis, racism, fear, and disillusion with the traditional political parties, was launched into the political limelight in 1984 by winning 11 per cent in the European Parliament poll, and which had hoped to get 100 seats in the French election on Sunday.

Undeterred by a recent unfavourable poll, M Le Pen is still going round the country predicting more than 15 per cent of the vote and between 50 and 100 seats. He brushes aside the gloomy predictions as part of a conspiracy by the

Government and the "Gang of Four" — the four other main political parties — in "do down" the National Front.

It is a theme to which he returns frequently. We are "the little men", battling the totalitarian power of the state and the establishment, with their stranglehold on the media, he cries. They tell lies about us and try to vilify us.

There are "lots of little men" in the packed cinema in Mantes-la-Jolie in the Yvelines, west of Paris, and they applaud loudly. Had they not seen how the murder of the Socialist sympathizer by an alleged National Front supporter had made headlines, whereas the media passed by in silence the murder of two National Front supporters by young Moroccan immigrants in the south of France?

And what about the allegations against their leader of torture during the Algerian civil war; of underhand dealings to secure a fortune from



Victoria Sellers, aged 23, daughter of the late Peter Sellers and actress Britt Ekland, who has been charged with trying to set up a drug network in New Jersey. She is alleged to have belonged to a Hollywood gang (Christopher Thomas writes). Five alleged gang members have been arrested; Miss Sellers is still being sought.

Norway crisis budget will put up prices

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Amid government warnings of "economic catastrophe", an emergency package of budget adjustments is to be proposed to the Norwegian Storting (Parliament) today that will mean substantial price increases in a country that is already one of the most expensive in the world.

Mr Rolf Presthus, the Finance Minister, will call for higher taxes on alcohol and tobacco, both of which are already taxed prohibitively in order to discourage their use. The price of petrol, which has been dropping almost weekly since the bottom fell out of the oil market last January, would be bolstered, and government subsidies on beer and lamb, long a target of Mr Kaare Willoch's Conservative administration, would be reduced.

Norway, Europe's largest oil producing nation after Britain, has made strenuous efforts through the years of the North Sea oil bonanza to anticipate the hazards it now faces. But although it has managed to avoid becoming a one-product economy, oil revenues by last year were accounting for a fifth of the government's total income. This year, the proportion is likely to be closer to 6 per cent.

Some examples of current prices: bottle of "cheap" Norwegian whiskey, 151 kroner; packet of 20 cigarettes, 230 kroner; 1 lb mince, 36 kroner; 100 gms Nescafé coffee, 42.50 kroner; small bottle shampoo 15.70 kroner; one small lemon, 2.70 kroner; tin baked beans (400gms), 14.90 kroner. (1 Kroner equals 10p-11p.)

Strike shuts Finnish factories

From Olli Kivinen Helsinki

Last-minute negotiations failed to stop a strike yesterday which closed all important factories, threatening the economic development made by Finland over the past decade.

The strike by the blue-collar union SAK is the first big one

since metal workers went out in 1971. It began when negotiations between SAK and the employers' union, the STK, were proceeding well. The STK had presented a new offer during all-night negotiations but the union said it could not accept it before all employers accepted it. The STK did not have time to

have its offer accepted by three other employers' associations.

Mr Pentti Somerto, the STK leader said that about a quarter of the union's million members are actually on strike on behalf of other unions, some of which had accepted a centralized wages agreement already.

Iraq moves on Fao

Bahrain (Reuters) — Iraq claimed yesterday that an army column advancing along the Fao peninsula had captured two key positions and linked with a column attacking from the west. Baghdad called it a major breakthrough.

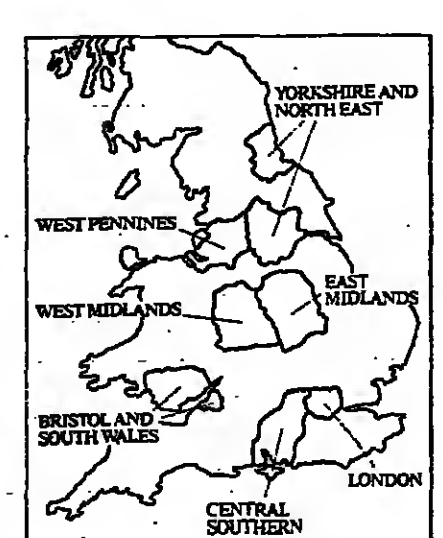
But Tehran said that Iranian troops had repulsed an attack on their positions on

the southern tip of the peninsula, killing hundreds of Iraqis and capturing at least 48. The battle took place on the Basra road north of the oil port.

Meanwhile Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said here Britain was deeply concerned at the extension of Gulf fighting and the threat to Kuwait.

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Sharon alone unscathed after Herut party uproar

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The Herut convention adjourned in uproar early yesterday with Mr Ariel Sharon, the roguish elephant of the party, alone emerging relatively unharmed from three days and nights of near-constant vindictive abuse among the leaders.

A real question mark must now hang over how long the party leader, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, can survive as Prime Minister if he takes over in October under the terms of the present coalition agreement with Labour.

Mr Shamir had spent most of the convention on the sidelines of the often violent arguments. Late on Wednesday, as the forces of Mr Sharon and his ally, Mr David Levy, threatened to sweep all before them, Mr Shamir tried to speak to save both his political career and the middle-class, traditional standards he stands for.

But his microphone oratory scarcely rose above the roars of chanting delegates. It was only by contriving a way of adjourning proceedings indefinitely that he managed to end a destructive performance by the various pretenders to the role of Mr Menachem Begin as ruler of Herut and of Israel.

The scene for the final session was set by the result of the vote for chairman of the convention mandate committee between Mr Sharon and Mr Binyamin Begin, son of the former undisputed leader. Since the Shamir camp had narrowly carried the day in the

election for convention chairman, Mr Begin started as favourite. But that was because Mr Sharon's charisma and ability to fight against the odds had been discounted.

In the end he won convincingly, securing the right to appoint new convention delegates. That was a right which would enable him to ensure victory for Mr Levy against the Shamir candidate in the election for chairman of the policy-making steering committee. It was the battle to stop this that forced Mr Shamir to contrive an end to the proceedings.

Before that happened both he and Mr Levy had outbid each other in hurling insults. Mr Levy was described by his leader as "a criminal" and later as "a man driven by megalomania". Mr Levy said that Mr Shamir's behaviour was better suited to Disneyland.

Mr Sharon managed to stand aside from the slanging match and to appeal directly to delegates of both camps on the basis of his past reputation.

The chief protagonists now have to rally support before the convention is recalled in a few weeks to try again to choose its leaders and then discuss policies. Mr Shamir can expect to stay on as Prime Minister. But he will have to bring both Mr Levy and Mr Sharon into his Cabinet to hold the party together.



A despondent Mr Shamir pondering the results of the convention and the revolt against his leadership.

Greece jails Arab for attack on envoy

From Mario Modiano, Athens

An Arab, aged 25, has been sentenced by a Greek court to 10 1/2 years' imprisonment after an abortive attempt to assassinate a senior Jordanian diplomat in Athens in 1984.

The man, identified by his Moroccan passport as Amar Mabrouki, was found guilty of illegal possession and use of a weapon, but the court accepted mitigating circumstances because "he had not acted out of base motives."

Convictions of Arab terrorists in Greece have been rare and this development was seen as a sign of the Greek Government's declared intention to co-operate with the West in counter-terrorism.

Mr Assim Qureshat, the Jordanian Minister-Counselor, told the court he recognized the defendant as the man who had tried to kill him on November 29, 1984 as he left the Jordanian Embassy in a car with his two children.

The man's gun had apparently jammed and he escaped on foot leaving behind a rented motor scooter which eventually led to his arrest the following day in a train headed for Yugoslavia. Police witnesses said the defendant was a Palestinian connected with the Black September organization.

Mr Mabrouki, who spent 15 months in prison awaiting trial, denied the charges and claimed he had come to Greece as a tourist and borrowed the scooter from an Arab friend.

Two Palestinians and one Libyan are in Greek jails awaiting trial on terrorism-related charges.

French hostage crisis Negotiator finds himself back on road to Damascus

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Hostage negotiators traditionally have a long travail in Lebanon and Dr Razah Raad's odyssey around Lebanon and Syria these past four days has been no different.

After having originally planned to fly home to Paris from Beirut yesterday, he was back on the road to Damascus in the afternoon to seek further Syrian help in his efforts to free a four-man French television crew, two French diplomats and a journalist being held hostage in Beirut.

Apparently still without proof that the Islamic Jihad kidnapers have killed M Michel Seurat, the French researcher whom they claimed to have murdered last week, Dr Raad has not even revealed whether the four television employees will be freed soon. He said only that he had made "tangible progress" in his talks with leading Shia Muslims in Beirut.

President Saddam Hussein's pardon for the two Iraqi opponents of his regime whose deportation from Paris provoked Islamic Jihad's claim to have killed M Seurat has not, therefore, had any immediate effect on Dr Raad's negotiations. He was quoted in the Beirut newspaper *an-Nahar* as saying that a deal was "in the works" and that "consultations now focus on formalities, which are no less important than the substance".

Indeed they are. It is almost certain that Dr Raad will have to pay some public tribute to Syria for its help in the negotiations — such courtesies

are imperative if negotiators here are to achieve success — but this still does not explain his sudden departure for Damascus yesterday. Dr Raad is a Gaullist candidate in the French elections and had booked an economy seat on yesterday's Middle East Airlines flight to Paris.

But the negotiator is now talking of staying three more days in Syria before flying to Paris and then returning to Lebanon. Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, found himself flying the same kind of distances last year, with no immediate success, when trying to secure the release of four American hostages imprisoned by Islamic Jihad in Beirut.

PARIS: Anxious not to raise false hopes about a possible release of the French hostages, the French Government is adopting an attitude of extreme caution in the wake of the pardon granted by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to the two pro-Iranian opponents of the Baghdad regime (Diana Geddes writes).

While there is enormous relief that the kidnapers' most pressing demand has been met, government sources say the return to France of the two Iraqis, who were expelled last month, was a necessary condition for the release of the French hostages but was not necessarily a sufficient condition.

They say the pro-Iranian kidnapers have in the past also demanded the repayment to Iraq of a \$1 billion loan made by the Shah.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

"I don't think the Soviet Union wants an agreement," Mr Richard Perle, the American Assistant Secretary of Defence, told me bluntly in Washington a few days ago. Other members of the Administration did not put it in quite such stark terms, which was hardly surprising as Mr Perle is regarded as probably the principal hardliner in the State Department.

But there is no longer any serious expectation in Washington that a significant arms control agreement could be put together in time for a second Reagan-Gorbachov summit later in the year. The differences between the Western and Soviet positions are too substantial.

Of the three subject areas under discussion in the Geneva negotiations — space weapons, strategic arms and intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) — it is the last which is still considered to offer the best prospect. But there is no indication that the process of negotiating the gap has even begun after Mr Gorbachov's proposals of January 15 for an interim agreement in this field.

Mr Perle is not alone in the administration in believing that these proposals represent a hardening of the Soviet position on the British and French deterrents.

Wiser to wait for Moscow's signals

It may sound conciliatory to suggest that they may be kept for the meantime. But Mr Gorbachov is making this offer only on condition that they are not modernized. To insist on the deterrents becoming obsolete is in fact to insist on their continued existence.

Mr Perle regards this as a sign that the Soviets are simply not interested in an arms settlement. Others, it seems to me more wisely, wait to see what signals come from Moscow now that the Communist Party Congress is over. But nobody in the administration seems to believe in the likelihood of swift progress at Geneva.

This does not, however, rule out another summit this year. What it means is that a second meeting between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov would again be essentially atmospheric. The Soviet leader's visit to the United States would become a tourist spectacular. The "fireside summit" would be succeeded by "Gorbachov in Disneyland".

This would not worry the Americans. They are accustomed to atmospheric politics, believing that in public life appearances have a reality of their own. It is an art form at which Mr Reagan excels, and for once the US could not be accused by its allies of blocking the path to peace.

Europe takes a tougher line

It is America's Asian allies, not the United States, who have insisted that if medium range missiles are to be eliminated in Europe so must they be in Asia by the end of 1989. It is the European allies not the United States who have developed reservations about the wisdom of removing all the Euro-missiles.

There are conflicting views within the Reagan Administration about these European second thoughts, and the United States has decided to stick to the zero-zero proposal for getting rid of all the missiles, East and West. I believe, though, that there is some force in the European reservations and that it is no bad thing for European governments to be taking a tougher line than the US for once. It makes it easier for such issues to be considered on their merits within the Alliance.

But on both sides of the Atlantic, arms control no longer seems to be regarded as such an absolute priority. More attention is being paid to the overall relationship with the Soviet Union. There is now the chance, I was told, of putting this at last on a steady and realistic basis.

If this could really be done, it would be better than any arms settlement that is ever likely to be signed. It is the sudden lurches from vituperation to euphoria and back again that have done more than anything else to undermine European confidence in the American attitude to the Soviet Union.

An arms agreement is a means to an end rather than an end in itself. Without a proper measure of clear-sighted understanding between the superpowers it will be hard to negotiate a sensible settlement, and infinitely harder to make one stick.

Shooting denounced by lawyer

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A Johannesburg lawyer, Mr Laurence Tonkin, declared yesterday that there was no apparent justification for a police decision to open fire on a crowd of black schoolchildren last Tuesday outside the Kabokweni magistrate's court, near White River, in the eastern Transvaal.

Mr Tonkin witnessed the incident in which at least one pupil was killed and many were wounded. He said the crowd was "very angry" but not uncontrollable. Contrary to police claims, he heard no police order to disperse, nor anything "to justify the view that the shooting was the last resort available."

A police captain asked to speak to the leaders of the crowd, Mr Tonkin said he persuaded six people to come forward, and had gone with them to find the captain when the shooting started. "I was at that stage near the police and I covered, clutching to myself two of the leaders. I was aware of children scrambling away from the police. After the shooting, the area was littered with groaning pupils."

"I was deeply shocked by what had happened and I burst into tears."

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, yesterday ordered the Commissioner of Police, General Joban Coetzee, to investigate.

In Alexandra, Johannesburg, a black policeman was shot dead on Wednesday by white police, according to member of the township's community council, Mr L. C. Koza.

Rebel troops rounded up by Museveni

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Army and police in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, have begun to round up fugitive soldiers of the military council ousted by President Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army.

Uganda radio has broadcast orders for any of the troops still at liberty to report immediately to army headquarters. Road blocks have been set up around Kampala to check for fugitive soldiers, but civilians are not being harassed.

There has been increasing concern about security in the Kampala area recently and authorities believe many weapons may be in the hands of potential criminals.

British snub for Kabul

Britain is to return, unanswered, the diplomatic note from Afghanistan protesting at this week's reception by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, for the Afghan rebel commander, Mr Abdul Haq (Our Political Staff writes).

Britain has had no dealings with the regime of President Babrak Karmal since the Soviet invasion.

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Sri Lanka stops bombing rebel camps

From Michael Hamlyn
Colombo

The Sri Lankan Government yesterday unilaterally stopped the aerial bombing of rebel hideouts in the Northern Province.

The move has been seen as reaction to recent criticism that it was not serious about seeking a peaceful political solution to the ethnic crisis in the island.

Making the announcement, Mr Lalith Athulthumudali, the Minister for National Security, said that in return the government expected the rebels to stop moving men and materials across the Palk Strait from India.

A Sri Lankan official said: "If the cessation takes place, the bombing halt will continue for another week and soon the aim will be to generate a full ceasefire after nine months. And then we shall be prepared to talk to any individual or group about a political solution."

An official government statement yesterday emphasized the point by reiterating "its firm and unqualified commitment to a political resolution of the current ethnic problem in Sri Lanka".

The statement said the government believed that such a resolution "must rest upon reconciling and fulfilling the aspirations as well as removing the fears and concerns of all sections of our people."

It also declared that the government "appreciates the



Tamil guerrilla fighters display AK-47 rifles while returning to their camp near Jaffna after a battle with government troops. They have been called upon to stop moving materials from India in response to Sri Lanka's bombing halt.

continuing good offices of the Government of India".

The indirect negotiations of Mr Ramesh Bhandari, the senior civil servant in the Indian Foreign Ministry, between the Sri Lankan Government and the militant groups seeking to enforce a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island, ground to a halt last month when the Sri Lankans replied to proposals from the Tamils. It is expected that developments since then will enable Mr Bhandari to

restart negotiations.

The Sri Lankan announcement was made against a background of escalating diplomatic ill-feeling with India over the halting of the Bhandari mission. The barrage of criticism included some bitter remarks from Mr B.R. Bhagat, the Indian Foreign Minister, in parliament and culminated in a statement from Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, virtually washing his hands of the Sri Lankans.

In an interview with a Calcutta daily newspaper, Mr Gandhi said: "Now we don't want them to talk to us. We want them to talk (directly) with the Tamils". Mr Gandhi expressed his disappointment with what had been achieved in the talks so far by saying that moves by the Sri Lankan Government "come too late, are too small, and more needs to be done". The Sri Lankans are now offering to resettle refugees in certain mixed areas of the

country in answer to an issue frequently raised by India. The first settlement will take place around Vavuniya, under the auspices of the local government agent. Mr Athulthumudali said: "The people there have lived together for five or six hundred years or longer and... often think of themselves not simply as Tamils or Sinhalese but as Vavuniyans". If the first resettlement is successful, the experiment will be repeated in other areas.

Sydney may get harbour tunnel

Sydney (Reuter) - Mr Neville Wran, the Premier of New South Wales, yesterday announced a feasibility study into a plan to build a four-lane 1.3-mile tunnel under Sydney Harbour.

Mr Wran said the \$Auc350 million (about £160 million) plan called for the tunnel to be built by the early 1990s.

It would be built in steel sections in a trench beside the 50-year-old Harbour Bridge and would run from Lavender Bay, in the north, to the Rocks.

It would use existing access roads and not affect any buildings. In 1982, four plans for another harbour crossing to complement the bridge were abandoned because they were environmentally unacceptable.

Mr Wran said the latest plan was mapped out by a consortium of the Australian Transfield Engineering Company and the Japanese Kumagai Gumi construction firm, with Westpac Banking Corporation organizing the finance.

Mr Laurie Brereton, the state Minister for Public Works, Ports and Roads, said the bridge toll would more than double next year and by 1989 would be five times the present amount.

Britons at risk as riot hostages in Thai jail 'war'

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Some 100 Western prisoners, including 11 Britons, are in the frontline of the "war" in Thailand's jails, which have been the scene of three violent rebellions in the past seven months. Thai prisoners have warned them that they will be "hijacked" and used as hostages in the next prison riot.

The warnings are being taken seriously because of heavy loss of life in the recent riots. Officially 30 prisoners and three warders were killed, but well-informed prison visitors say the death toll was much higher.

Several Western embassies have told the Thai Government that they are worried about the safety of their nationals. Although officials brush aside these fears, they have made changes inside the Bang Kwang maximum security prison just outside Bangkok.

The Western prisoners have been segregated in one section for greater safety in an emergency.

Those Westerners who refused to join last year's riots at Bang Kwang and helped extinguish fires started by the rioters are most at risk.

For the first time warders at the prison are receiving riot control training and specially-

trained dogs have been brought in to back them up. Bang Kwang is regarded as one of the most brutal jails in Asia. Men there have been convicted of the most serious crimes and about 300 are under sentence of death.

Only one Briton, John Sinclair Western, aged 31, is imprisoned at Bang Kwang. He has served almost six years of a 33-year sentence for attempted heroin trafficking. The other Britons are at a jail for shorter-term prisoners.

Overcrowding is a serious problem in all Thai jails. A Thai criminologist said: "The living space for one inmate is equal to that needed to lie on one's side." Another factor in the current unrest is the lack of a clearly defined and comprehensive parole system.

Several countries, including the United States, have signed treaties with Thailand permitting the repatriation of long-term prisoners to serve the bulk of their sentences in their own countries, but the Thai Parliament has not yet ratified the treaties.

Britain has had preliminary discussions about a treaty but British officials have indicated that they do not regard its completion as an urgent matter.

Troubles pile up for Bolivia

Austerity erodes unions' power

From John Enders, La Paz

Two days of peaceful protest have ended in Bolivia and it has become increasingly clear that the country's traditionally powerful trade union organisations will have to do much more if they intend to force changes in President Paz Estenssoro's tough austerity programme.

Workers, students, teachers and housewives marched through La Paz - 20,000 on Tuesday and about half that on Wednesday - to protest against budget cuts, the freeze in public sector wages and the resulting recession which has hit since Dr Paz Estenssoro came in power last autumn.

The once all-powerful Central Obrero Boliviano (Bolivian Workers' Central), the national labour confederation, called the nationwide day of protest to show opposition to low salaries, high prices and the Government's programme in general.

That programme was designed to cut the hyper-inflationary spiral during which inflation totalled more than 8,000 per cent last year and reached an annual rate of

about 24,000 per cent last summer.

The confederation, however, refrained from calling publicly for a general strike, since its leaders are now aware that their following is not what it once was. Public sector workers are forbidden from staying away to take part in such actions, and wages in the private sector are not as low as in state enterprises.

There was a minor confrontation in La Paz on Wednesday with some tear gas fired by police, but even in mining regions the protest was reportedly peaceful.

The Government says it will keep public sector wages frozen at 30 million pesos a month (£10.9 million) until the end of May. The country is desperately negotiating a \$50 million (£34 million) standby credit and a \$100 million compensatory credit facility with the International Monetary Fund.

The Planning Minister, Señor Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, has said Bolivia needs about \$300 million in foreign aid this year to keep the austerity plan on track and reactivate the economy.

Titicaca floods leave 300,000 homeless

From Our Correspondent, La Paz

Some 300,000 people have been left homeless as Lake Titicaca continues to overflow in what may be the worst flooding for 100 years.

Almost miraculously, there have been no reports of deaths due to the floods in Bolivia and Peru.

This year's wet season has come with a vengeance and, since December, the almost daily heavy rainfalls have caused the waters of the lake high in the Andes to rise 7ft above their normal level.

Half the homeless are on the Bolivian side of the lake,

where losses are estimated at about £47 million, according to Señor Luis Fernando Valle, the Defence Minister. Titicaca measures about 5,000 square miles and is the highest navigable lake in the world.

The second and third largest cities in Bolivia, Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, as well as tens of thousands of acres of grazing and farmland in the central and northern parts of the country, are threatened by the flood waters. In Peru, the port city of Puno is heavily inundated.

The intensity of the recent rains has caused highways and rail lines to be cut. In the city of La Paz, the administrative capital of Bolivia, about 50 homes have been destroyed by mudslides in the last fortnight.

On Wednesday, the Bolivian military was mobilized to help the homeless.

According to technical experts, it will take up to two or three years for the waters to recede to their traditional level.



Guatemala air crash blamed on crew error

Guatemala City (AP) - Bad weather and human error were responsible for the January 18 crash of a twin-engine jet that killed 95 people in a jungle in northern Guatemala, investigators reported.

The Caravelle jet of the private Aerovias of Guatemala airline was carrying 89 tourists, including two Britons, and six crew when it crashed into a hill near Santa Elena, 298 miles north of Guatemala City.

Investigators blamed the crash on light fog, the decision to make an instrument landing, the possible misreading of the altimeter, and the crew's scant experience in flying the Caravelle.

The report said the black box, or flight recorder, was useless because the tape had been inserted incorrectly. The last conversation recorded was from a flight to Ecuador.

Women killed in Sabah fire bomb attack

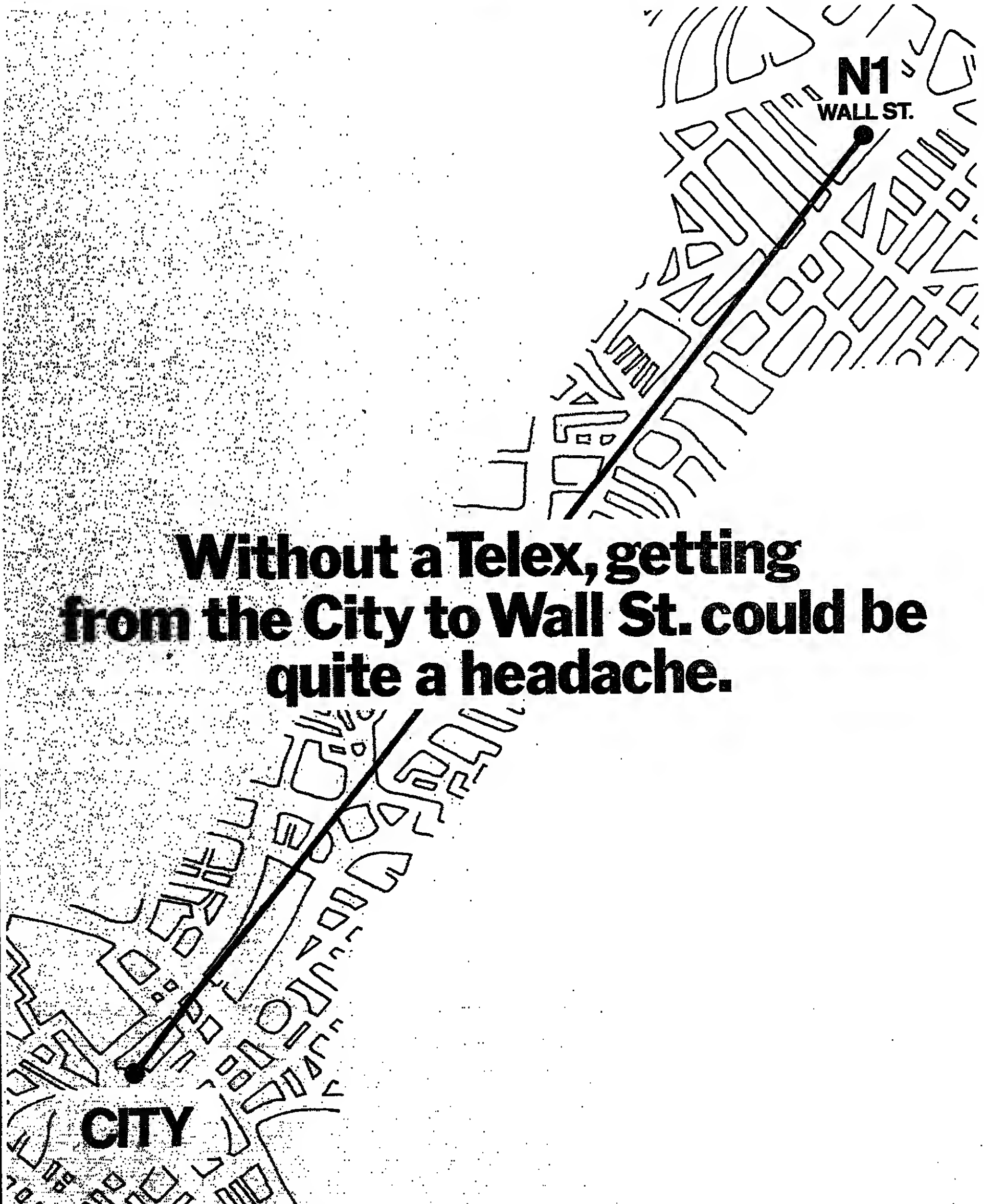
Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (Reuter) - A Chinese woman aged 70 and her Indonesian servant have been burnt to death in a petrol bomb attack on their shop-house in Tawau, eastern Sabah, during Christian-Muslim tension.

The attack came as another bomb exploded yesterday in the capital of the east Malaysian state, where bombs injured four people on Wednesday.

Eighteen two-storey shop-houses were destroyed as fire spread in Tawau, though the bomb in Kota Kinabalu caused little damage.

Hundreds of Muslims abused passers-by after eight red crosses were painted on the walls of the State Mosque. Police blocked plans to march on the Roman Catholic Sacred Heart Church, but a statue of Jesus on the facade was stoned.

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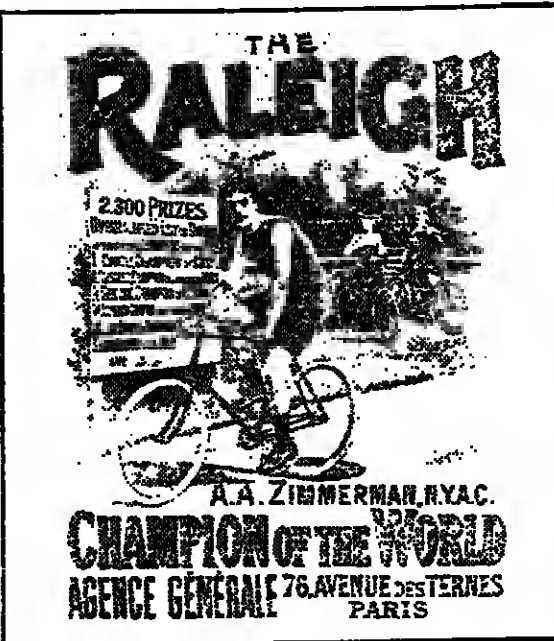
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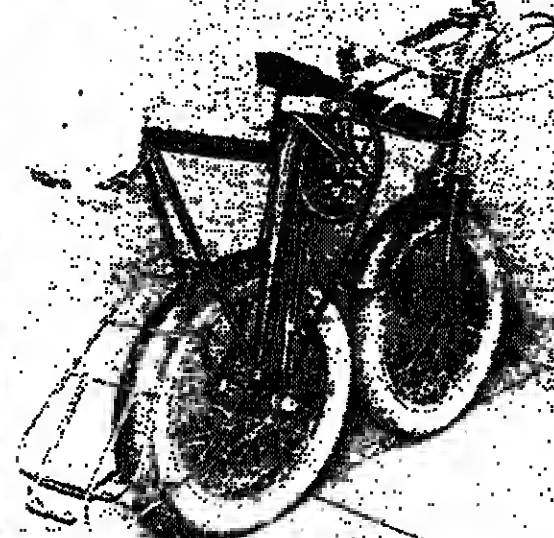
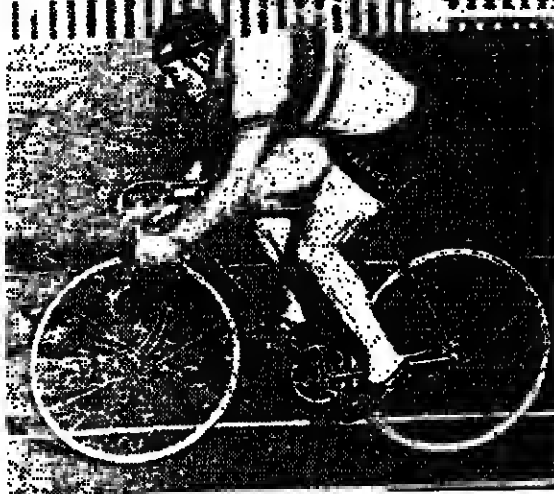
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Wheels of fortune: the giant cycle factory (top) in 1894 started by Frank Bowden (top right) in a workshop in Nottingham. Above: Raleigh's 1892 world champion A. A. Zimmerman, and (right) Bowden's son Harold



Winning streak: Raleigh rider and world champion Reg Harris (top left) in 1949; the company's compact 1960s cycle (left); and Joop Zoetemelk (right) who won the Tour de France for Raleigh in 1980

Women and children first

The 134-year-old wreck of the HMS Birkenhead, lying in some 90 feet of water off the Cape coast, has become a bone of contention between the British and South African governments. Involving delicate questions of maritime law and the protection of war graves.

At the end of last month, divers working for a South African salvage firm wrested 24 gold coins from the recently discovered, undisturbed stern section, reviving speculation that the ship may have been carrying some 240,000 gold sovereigns. The Birkenhead occupies a special and sentimental place in the annals of heroism at sea. She is not just another potential underwater treasure trove.

The 1,900-ton vessel set sail for South Africa from Cork on January 7, 1852. Intended originally to be a frigate, she was one of the first warships to have a hull of iron, and was powered by steam-driven paddle wheels in addition to sails. After taking on coal and provisions at Simonstown, on the Cape peninsula, she put to sea again on February 25 with 638 people on board.

These included 476 British soldiers bound for the 8th "Kaffir War" in the Eastern Cape, and some 20 women and children. Possibly owing to compass error or treacherous currents, the Birkenhead kept to close to the shore and ran on to a rock off Danger Point, some 50 miles south-east of the Cape of Good Hope.

The captain attempted to get the ship off the rock by putting the engines into reverse, a manoeuvre which merely succeeded in ripping the bottom out of the vessel, dooming most of those on board to death by drowning.

The ship had eight boats, but they were all lashed to the paddle-housings and had been so little used that their rigging was clogged with paint and the davits jammed. Only three boats could be lowered into the water, and they quickly filled with the women and children.

Knowing they would swamp the boats if they tried to scramble aboard as well, the troops remained calmly on the Birkenhead, and, according to legend, did not even break ranks when funnel and main mast crashed onto the deck. Moments later, the ship went down with the loss of 445 lives. The soldiers' stoic behaviour gave rise to the tradition of "women and children first", still known as the "Birkenhead Drill".

The ship's assistant master, who survived the disaster, is said to have told a Board of

The wreck of the Birkenhead, whose courageous men are immortalized in that stoic cry, is the focus of a fresh dispute

Enquiry in 1853 that she had 240,000 gold sovereigns on board to pay the troops, though many naval historians always doubted this. Unsuccessful attempts to recover the gold were made in 1854, 1893, and 1958.

Permission for the current salvage operation was given in January of last year by the South African National Monuments Council. The council's director, Dr Chris Loedloff, maintains that the wreck has been abandoned for years, and that the British can have no claim to its contents. Under the agreement with the council, the divers are entitled to half of whatever they salvage, and the South African government gets the rest.

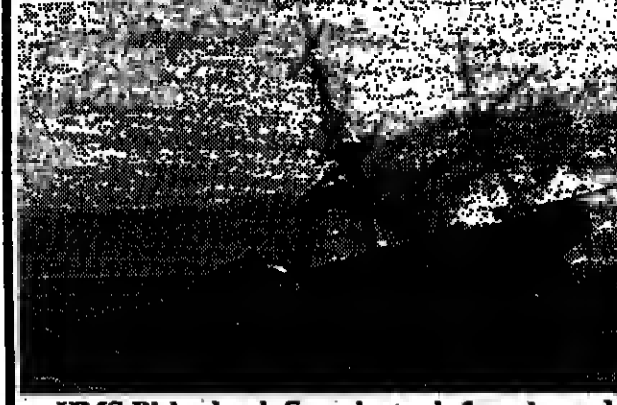
Pretoria contends that in terms of the Sea Shore Act anything lying within South African territorial waters belongs to South Africa. The British Foreign Office argues, however, that Britain still has an "interest" in the Birkenhead and its contents. "We have never abandoned the wreck", a spokesman for the British Embassy in Cape Town said. "A British bottom remains a British bottom wherever it is. We are also anxious that there should be no disturbance of a war grave".

Mr H.B. Zuck, a Cape Town ornithologist, who has examined some of the 24 coins recovered so far, says they are in excellent condition and that at least two of them — an 1837 William IV and a 1850 Victoria — may never have been in circulation.

The recovered coins, £1 when the ship went down, would at today's gold price have an individual value of about £170 (about £60). According to Mr Zuck, however, collectors would be prepared to pay between £500 and £2,500 each for them. Dr Andrew Smith, professor of archaeology at Cape Town University, said he was "totally against this kind of plundering of cultural resources for bullion".

Dr Smith said the South African National Monuments Council had no diver on its staff, and thus had no way of "controlling what the salvagers are doing underwater".

Michael Hornsby
Trustee of National Maritime Museum



HMS Birkenhead, five minutes before she sank

Riding out a rough patch

Today Raleigh, Britain's biggest bicycle manufacturer, hopes to announce a deal with its workforce to slim down its troubled Nottingham factory after several years of dramatically declining sales. Yet it seems only yesterday that the Raleigh team was toasting victory in cycling's most glittering prize, the Tour de France.

Alan Hamilton charts the changing fortune of the British bike industry

Assuming that you are not yourself a fanatical devotee of the chamomise-lined crotch and the knotted-string legs, can you name a single current British cycling champion? No, neither could I, but they do exist. One of them even holds the title of Iron Man of Europe, and she is a woman.

Outside its own devotees, all grinded teeth and bunched pale competitive cycling has never quite caught the British public imagination. Its heroes and champions remain largely unsung outside their own arcane world, never having enjoyed the media exposure that can elevate the jousting knights of the once even more obscure art of snooker into national figures.

But that may be about to change. Channel Four, encouraged by viewing figures of 2 million for its late-night reports of the Tour de France last year, is repeating the exercise this summer, but at early evening peak time. The BBC is promoting its bicycling radio fat man, Tom Vernon, to a television series. The Milk Race — small beer by world standards but the best we have — will for the first time this year stage a crowd-pulling big finish of 40 circuits around central London.

A series of round-the-streets races in provincial towns sponsored by Kellogg's cornflakes has generated respectable crowds. Later this year British cinema-goers are likely to be offered *American Flyers*, starring Dustin Hoffman as a professional cyclist in the Tour de France.

That the profile of the bicycle should be rising, albeit slowly, is a matter of major importance for the British cycle industry, fighting cheap imports in a market which has fallen by a third in two years. It regards its future as being heavily

dependent on the humble hike coming to be seen as an instrument of post-kate leisure rather than of cheap transport, a machine to be actively enjoyed rather than dragged from the shed only when you can't be bothered to walk the whippets.

In 1983, 2.3 million bicycles were sold in Britain; by last year the market had tumbled to 1.5 million, and the biggest sufferer by far was Raleigh. The shriek is due overwhelmingly to the collapse of the BMX (bicycle moto-cross) craze which has gone the way of the hula-hoop and the skateboard with frightening speed. At the height of the fad, 800,000 of the tough, chunky children's stunt bikes were being sold each year, and the great majority of those made in Britain came from Raleigh.

But Raleigh was in trouble even before BMX arrived to keep its 64-acre Nottingham factory occupied. The return of the Conservative government in 1979 pushed up interest rates and strengthened sterling, and the company found itself priced out of export markets. Even the United States, where it had been selling 250,000 bicycles a year, had to be abandoned entirely.

It shed labour and re-equipped its plant with the intention of defending the home market and exporting to Europe. But by 1984 the £6 million computer-controlled paint and assembly operation was causing

major technical problems, and another 800 workers had to go. Late last year it called in a team of management consultants from McKinsey and their conclusions, some likely to be revealed today, are almost certain to say that Raleigh is still far too big, and its working practices outmoded. Recently Raleigh has even been forced to abandon sponsorship of the most successful cycle racing team in Europe when the balance sheet showed that keeping 30 riders on the professional circuit was costing £1 million a year.

It was a decision taken with great regret. Team Raleigh has won more Tour de France trophies than any other team. Steven Bell of Raleigh explained: "All that money and publicity was bringing us virtually no benefit in the crucial bike market. We have frankly been disappointed that cycle racing has not generated more interest in Britain."

No other British manufacturer approaches Raleigh's size. Holdsworth, which has taken over the old Marlboro marque, claims to be the second biggest, with just over 100 workers producing 100,000 units a year from its Black Country plant. Elswick Falcoo on Humberside claims about 8 per cent of the market, but of the 120,000 units it sells in a year, half are imported.

But there are bright spots in a

depressed market, and smaller companies with their own niche in the market, like the respected Dawes marque with 30,000 sales a year, are faring much better; they are the Jaguars to Raleigh's Austin Rover. The only sector of the entire cycle market to show an increase last year was touring and sports bikes in the £200-£400 range. This week, for the first time in several years, British manufacturers are represented at the important New York bicycle show.

One saviour has been what is in effect no more than a BMX for grown-up children, the mountain bike or ATB — all-terrain bicycle — consisting of a standard but strengthened frame and fat chunky tyres. Yuppies and city commuters are taking to it enthusiastically because its design helps to iron out the spine-jarring jolts of manhole covers and cobblestones, and the makers of saddles are finally cottoning on to the fact that women's bottoms are designed differently from men's.

According to Nick Rearden of *Bicycle* magazine: "The mountain bike is helping to show that cycling is fun. There will probably not be another fad like BMX, but there is certainly a trend, and it involves healthy living and outdoor pursuits. Cycling as a positive leisure pursuit is certainly growing among the young upwardly mobile, but what happens in Hampstead is not likely

to happen in the country at large. Bikes still suffer from an image problem among the majority. "The industry's future lies in value, not volume. The firms who will do well are those who do most to identify their customers precisely. Even Raleigh are getting better at it; their 1986 range is of good quality, and well targeted at the health and fitness market."

Peugeot, who made bikes before they made cars, understand the British market and are among the most successful importers. But it is a very different market from the Continental one. "In Europe, the bicycle has always been a natural and integral part of the way of life, another consumer item to be bought, used and thrown away," says Rearden. "The Continentals will buy a new bike every couple of years, while the British store their machines in the garden shed for life."

It is a long way from the garden shed to the triathlon, a preposterously punishing activity which involves swimming, riding and running over lung-bursting distances: it is a growing sport, even finding favour among many traditional athletes, and the cycle industry hopes that it will catch on sufficiently as a spectator activity to stimulate the populace at large into participation. Three years ago there were only 20 British cycling professionals; now there are 60.

Sarah Springman of Cambridge, Iron Man of Europe, might yet become a media star, as might 18-year-old Stuart Marshall of Lincoln, junior cyclocross world champion. And if they do, the hard-pressed men of Nottingham would like them to be riding Raleigh.

THE TIMES SATURDAY

The weekend starts here

Let the music begin!

The festival season is about to start and towns and cities all over Europe will soon be playing host to an immense range of artistic talent. Surprisingly, the phenomenon of festival going hardly existed before the Second World War. Bernard Levin introduces a two-part guide to what's happening where and describes the pleasure he gets from the festival round.

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Rocking the US boat

The protest song is alive and well and living in the craft of Jackson Browne, clean-cut stalwart of American rock

Browne: "Movies can't tell the truth but music can"

Browne — "It began when there was a lot of fuss about a song I had written which was kind of sarcastic about Yuppies. Then a writer asked me why I was making these jokes — why didn't I just go out there and speak directly about what was going on."

He began reading widely, and even provided music for national lecture tours that attacked the inequities of American foreign policy. He spent time in Nicaragua. And it was in Managua in early 1984 that he sang the first verse of "For America", the opening song on the album.

We were just sitting round a table and all these other people had been singing these songs about their lives. But that one verse was all I had to sing. I write very slowly — the song wasn't even finished by the end of that year."

Browne had grown to feel that only rock music was capable of dramatizing the issues. "I think Americans have a very broad and delectable streak but there are certain realities we are not coming to terms with. I think it's important that people start saying the President is lying — we still haven't recovered from the last

time a president lied. The Vietnam war did serious damage and now people are trying to rewrite history with a couple of pop movies — *Rambo* was just a way of trying to pretend we won that war. So the movies can't tell the truth but music can. Yeah, I suppose they are protest songs — that's a very lonely phrase."

But this level of seriousness was at odds with an instinct that told Browne to avoid a posture that implied he was pompously ignoring the fun of life. Hence the slightly self-conscious endorsement of Britain's latest home-grown hype, Sputnik. "Well it is refreshing to treat it all as a joke sometimes. I mean I don't believe that a lot of these heavy metal groups in the States are serious — they've got to be kidding."

Browne was speaking in London on his way to perform in Germany. A British tour has been put off until the autumn — he ran out of time making the album. The tour will be successful, for Browne appeals to an English generation that grew up believing there was an outside chance the world was changing and that rock was the instrument of that change. Almost everybody lost faith in the idea but Browne never did.

"I think music does have power to change people. It changed my life. And I do think that rock music has taken the place of the church — people get a lot of their ideas and express themselves through rock. It gives people values."

Bryan Appleyard
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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 899

ACROSS

- 1 S American cowboy (6)
- 5 Get round (6)
- 8 In favour of (3)
- 9 Conviction (6)
- 10 Be ambitious (6)
- 11 Perverse (4)
- 12 Unbeliever (8)
- 14 Last par (3.3)
- 17 Confuse (6)
- 19 Henry IV's comic knight (8)
- 22 Orient (4)
- 23 Lame person (7)
- 24 Velvet-like fabric (6)
- 25 In single direction (3.3)
- 26 Fuss (3)
- 27 Test summary (6)
- 28 Placed below (6)

DOWN

- 2 Stadium (5)
- 3 Lame person (7)
- 4 Casual (7)
- 5 Strong muscles (5)
- 6 Long tubes (5)
- 7 Narrow sea channel (7)
- 13 Spanish cry (3)
- 15 Not professional (7)
- 16 Loose egg (3)
- 17 Fool (7)
- 18 Life jacket (3.4)
- 20 Impassive person (5)
- 21 Characteristic airs (5)
- 23 Sun screen (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 898

ACROSS: 8 Toad in the hole 9 Kild 10 Accordant 11 Rodas 13 Serpent 16 Address 19 Baum 22 Reputation 24 Bar 25 Antimacassar

DOWN: 1 Snake 2 Candis 3 Pinfare 4 Stockis 5 Hair 6 Lcane 7 Septet 12 Old 14 Rudeness 15 Nun 16 Abroad 17 Deputy 18 Smirch 20 Upeat 21 Thrust 23 Lime

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Love's labours twice lost

Second marriages are embarked upon more cautiously than first, but as Lee Rodwell reports, their chances of failure are higher

Samuel Johnson observed that a second marriage was a triumph of hope over experience. Today's statistics give a measure of the frailty of that hope. According to a report from the Family Policy Studies Centre, a divorced man who remarries is one-and-a-half times more likely to end back in the divorce courts than a bachelor who marries for the first time at the same age.

For women the prospects are bleaker. A divorced woman who remarries is twice as likely to see her new marriage end in divorce as a single woman marrying at the same age. The failure rate is so marked that the National Marriage Guidance Council now runs group sessions specifically for couples in second marriages.

To the experts, the pitfalls of a second marriage are blindingly obvious. To the participants, they often can only be seen in hindsight. It is not simply that people fail to learn from their mistakes, although Dr Jack Dominian of the Marriage Research Centre at the Central Middlesex Hospital in London admits this can be part of the problem.

He says: "Sometimes a husband or wife will remarry in a hurry and enter into a problem situation without appreciating that they are doing so. People who find it difficult to live alone may go from one marriage to another, repeating the same mistakes. But marriage is not for companionship alone. You have to make sacrifices. And there is no doubt that some people are unsuitable for any marriage — people who are aloof, who find it difficult to accept love or to relate to others. So these people will find that the problems they faced in the first marriage will continue in a second one."

Remarriage itself can carry built-in difficulties. As Dr Dominian says: "Within a second marriage, there is often unfinished business from the first one. An ex-spouse may be so angry or obsessed by the

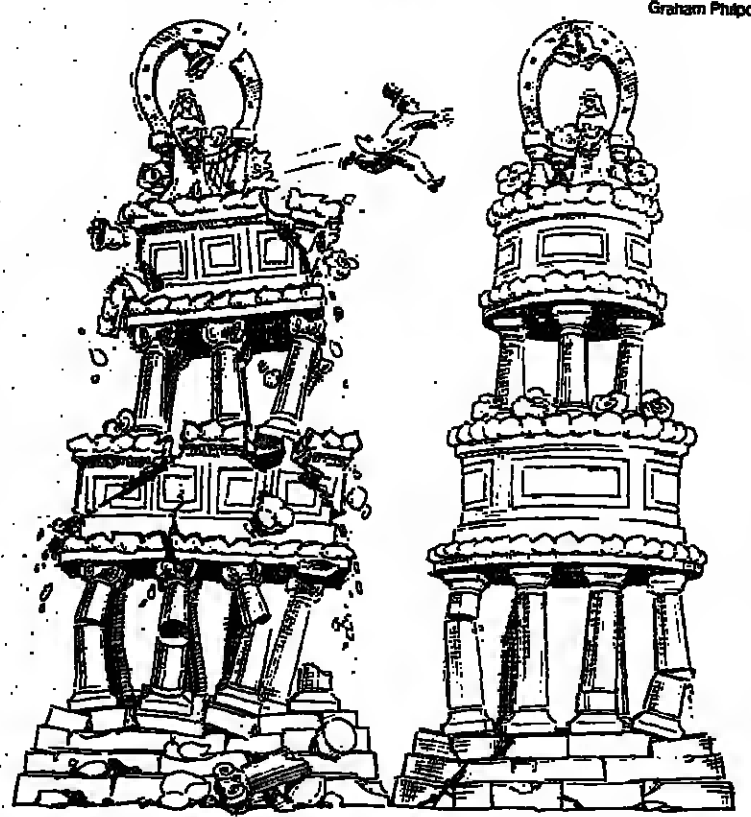
breakdown of the marriage that they may be unable to leave the second marriage in peace. There may be constant phone calls, reminders of the past, pressures brought to bear on subjects like money or children. And there is no doubt that when the children from the first marriage are present in the second — the Cinderella syndrome — this can be a source of continuous conflict."

Zelda West-Meads of the National Marriage Guidance Council points out that many couples with children are too optimistic about creating an instant family through remarriage. "The reality is that it takes a long time. Not only have the couple to try to form a new relationship — and that's difficult enough — but, unlike a first marriage, there are other family members involved. Children may resent having to share a parent. A wife may want her new husband to love her children and he may not be able to."

She also notes the dangers involved in men marrying their mistresses, or wives their lovers. "Sometimes people go straight into a second marriage from their first. The person they marry is the person who 'broke up' the first marriage. Yet often the 'other woman' or the 'other man' is what we call a transitional person, someone who enables you to get out of an unsatisfactory marriage. If you marry this person straight away, you start from a position of disadvantage."

Ray is 47 and has been divorced twice. A self-employed garden designer, he seems still rather puzzled by his marital history. "I got married for the first time when I was 21 and that marriage lasted 17 years. I felt that after the first few years my wife just stopped trying. She didn't want to have parties, to go out. Then after 12 years I discovered she had been having an affair with a business colleague. I stayed with the marriage because of the children but in the end I felt I couldn't stand it any longer. I met a girl 15 years younger than me, who was more on my wavelength. For years I had thought about nothing else, but holding things together. Finally I just thought 'what's the point? There's my life, too'."

"I felt I'd had a real deal from marriage and did not want to marry again, but my girlfriend did. We had an extremely happy relationship — when we met she wanted fun out of life and she wasn't interested in children, which suited me. Then suddenly it was all babies. Finally I agreed, but it was too late. She gave me three weeks' notice that she was going to leave, then she upped and



went. I was completely devastated. The first divorce simply came down to goods and chattels, but the second time I felt I was a failure. Ray has married again — a divorcee aged 40 whom he met through a computer dating agency. This time, he says, things will work out.

Penny, on the other hand, has no desire to marry again. At present going through her second divorce at the age of 36, she says: "After having a year on my own, I don't think I could accept having to account for my actions to someone else again. I suppose the failure of both my marriages are related in some ways. Both my husbands were

the same type of men — rather selfish and stubborn — although I didn't realize that at first.

"I married when I was 19 and stayed married for 11 years. We had reached a kind of stalemate where we just didn't get on. In fact, my husband was having an affair although I didn't know that until after we had separated. Seven months after the divorce came through I married a man who had been a family friend. Looking back, I think a lot of it was a search for security. I felt very alone and I had three young children. I couldn't get out much, and he used to come round. It was nice to have someone

there — but it wasn't the right reason to marry. It took me three years to realize it. He walked out in the end, but it was probably as much my fault as his."

Some experts would say that the seeds of failure were sown in Ray's and Penny's second marriage from the start, because they married for the "wrong" reasons: Ray under pressure from a girlfriend whose long-term view of marriage turned out to be very different from his own; Penny out of desire for security and a fear of loneliness.

But those same experts would point out that when second marriages work out, they can be far better and deeper than the marriages that preceded them. Zelda West-Meads says: "In a second marriage you are usually older, with more life experience behind you. You have changed and developed and are more at ease with yourself as a person."

Of the single men who marry for the first time between the ages of 20 and 24, 39 per cent are likely to get divorced. For the divorced man who remarries at the same age, the figure is 58 per cent. But if a man does not embark upon his second marriage until he is between 35 and 39, then this marriage has only a 32 per cent chance of failure. In other words, he is more likely to make a success of his second marriage than a man 10 years his junior will make of his first.

The same tendency can be seen in women. Single women who marry between the ages of 20 and 24 record a 32 per cent failure rate, divorced women who remarry at the same age, a 54 per cent one. But a divorced woman who remarries when she is in her late 30s faces better odds: the divorce rate in this category is only 27 per cent. Despite the overall picture, second marriages are by no means doomed from the start.

ONE COUPLE'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Sarah and Clive Buckley, from Abingdon in Oxfordshire, are determined to make their second marriage work. Sarah first married when she was 23, Clive when he was 25. Sarah's first marriage lasted five years, Clive's 10. When they married each other 18 months ago, each had spent some time alone; Sarah was then 30 and Clive 38.



Buckleys and daughter determined to succeed

Sarah says: "If you leave one marriage to marry someone else, that must be fraught with all kinds of difficulties. But we knew that our first marriages were well and truly dead. My daughter adores Clive and Clive's son is just glad his Dad is happy. Just because you love someone doesn't mean you will love their children or that they will love you, so anything's a bonus."

"I want this marriage to work. I think, in the end, it boils down to

give and take. You have to be honest with yourself, ask why you are getting married. I can remember being a bag of nerves when it was getting close to the wedding day trying to work out if I was just marrying for security, if I was just going out of the frying pan into the fire. I tried to analyse it, but in the end it just felt right."

Clive says: "If something goes wrong with a first marriage there is a danger of having emotional and psychological scars which you find difficult to leave behind when you go on to another marriage. I like to think I was able to go into a second marriage in a calm frame of mind. Having two years or so on my own before meeting Sarah helped."

"Divorce didn't put me off marriage. I felt things couldn't be as bad as that first experience. And a lot of things I went through in the first marriage were helpful. I was able to refine my thoughts about what marriage meant, the importance of being honest with each other, working together as a team. I think the lessons you can learn from the breakdown of a first marriage can help you make a success of your second."

Surviving the threat of AIDS

August 30, 1985 was one of the few sunny days in a pretty appalling summer. I shall remember that day for as long as I live. It was a day when my heart stopped, my blood froze, and I physically shook for the first time in my life.

FIRST PERSON

At approximately 10.50 in the morning a pleasant, bespectacled woman doctor told me that I was an AIDS-carrier, or to be more precise that I had been diagnosed as positive in a test for HTLV-III antibodies.

Four weeks before I had woken up in the middle of the night with a nightmare. I was going to die of AIDS. It was vivid, but it was nonsense, and to prove that it was I would go to a hospital to take a test. As a gay man it was clear that I could be a carrier.

That morning at ten o'clock I gave a simple blood sample, all that was required. I was told to come back four weeks later to collect the result.

I don't remember thinking of AIDS or the test more than once or twice during the intervening weeks. I was 28, fit, my acting career was looking up and my life was full almost decided to miss the appointment.

I suppose that I guessed it was bad news the moment I saw her. Her face was friendly, even warm, but there was an anxiety in her eyes. She spoke to me solidly for almost half an hour, telling me what the implications of a positive result were. Some of what she said went in, a lot passed me by. I remember feeling numb and cold. I asked some banal questions about life insurance.

At 11.30 I found myself in Praed Street, Paddington. I decided to keep a lunch appointment with a friend, and for an hour and a half I was very calm and collected. I then had the worst three or four

weeks of my life. I woke up in the mornings shaking. I wrote a will. I started having thoughts about what sort of funeral I wanted. I even prayed to a God I didn't believe existed.

One night I got out of bed at 3am, put on my shorts and ran faster than I have ever run in my life. I almost fell as if my life depended on it.

Six months later my life has settled down. The idea of killing myself because I was frightened of dying has ceased to seem logical. Regular consultations with a clinical psychologist helped.

According to the only data I know of, only 20 per cent of people diagnosed as having the HTLV-III antibodies will show any symptoms of AIDS and only about half of those will develop the disease. Stress and alcohol are two of the most important things that decrease immunity in general. With the use of yoga and the simplest of breathing exercises I no longer suffer from stress and I have cut back my alcohol intake enormously.

What of the future? Well, I'm still as fit as a fiddle, working, and I've a new boyfriend who, like me, is HTLV-III positive. We met through a marvellous organization called Body Positive, for people who are in our particular boat.

People in my position do not want pity. What we do want is for people to realize that we are not in the least dangerous to other people save for the most intimate sexual contact. We need the love and support of our friends and money to be spent on looking for a cure so that this virus does not become an epidemic.

Lifeline for victims

The traumas associated with the test for the HTLV-III led Jonathan Grimshaw to start Body Positive, which now has 100 members and 1,000 associates. writes Gitta Serevy.

"Pre-test counselling is essential for anyone having the test", he says. "No one should have to live through the trauma of finding themselves testing positive without immediate counselling at their disposal."

Thirty-five members are being trained in counselling by psychologists and professional counsellors who have volunteered their help. The organization is in close touch with London hospitals and the DHSS, publishes a fortnightly newsletter, holds almost daily social and educational meetings and is well on the way to becoming the essential lifeline for otherwise desperately isolated HTLV-III carriers.

The address of Body Positive is BAI Aids, London WC1N 3JX.

A secret craving for the cradle

Midnight feasts are the stuff of girls' school stories. A report, however, in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal* describes a man in his late 30s who impulsively raided the fridge about four times every night... every night. 12 hours. According to his wife he muttered when spoken to and often forgot the following morning that he had got out of bed, suggesting he was not fully awake.

The man spent six nights in a sleep laboratory surrounded by soft drinks, a pork pie, crisps and biscuits — and his nocturnal habit was watched by doctors.

What the research discovered was that his bouts of eating, which included falling asleep while still chewing, coincided with a rapid eye movement sleep (when the eyes dart forward and backwards under the eyelids) which is often associated with dreaming.

What is interesting is that this behaviour ties in with research on the sleep patterns of babies feeding on demand: cries for food are also related to rapid eye movement sleep. In addition, it has been discovered that adults kept in an unstructured environment, when they do not know what time of day or night it is, tend to eat and drink every 100 minutes when they are awake.

The researchers point out that this man's apparently bizarre behaviour is normal. He was indulging in rhythmic eating and drinking which the rest of us would also do if we had not learnt to suppress it in childhood.

Natural cycle

Diet is not the only factor which affects constipation. Your bowel habits depend on your sex and for women, the stage in the menstrual cycle.

A study in the journal *Gut* has shown how bowel function can vary substantially in perfectly healthy women. At the end of the cycle — just before the bleeding begins — the contents of the gut take twice as long to pass through the digestive tract and bowel movements are less frequent than in the first few days of the period.

The researchers — working with Professor John Dickerson, clinic nutritionist

MEDICAL BRIEFING

at the University of Surrey, say that these normal changes may be misdiagnosed as the more serious "irritable bowel syndrome" — when a person is hit by irregular and uncomfortable bowel movements.

There are also considerable differences between men and women: men produce larger quantities and softer stools than women.

Soldiering on

Selecting soldiers to withstand the pressures of warfare has never been underestimated by the British Army. Now, the Ministry of Defence has given Professor Paul Kline of the Department of Psychology at Exeter University a grant to investigate the performance of soldiers suffering from lack of sleep.

Manoeuvres can last for days with soldiers having to survive for five or six days without any decent sleep. This is increasingly dangerous because of the complicated technology found with military equipment.

Over the next two years Professor Kline hopes to discover what qualities are found in soldiers able to resist the difficulties, say, of loss of concentration that accompanies lack of sleep.

In time, the British Army hopes to be able to tailor training programmes and to design machinery to minimize the possibility of a disastrous mistake. Professor Kline hopes that his research will shed light on the problems faced by other people working under the stress of sleep deprivation.

Homely births

A study conducted at the Queen Charlotte's Hospital in London has shown that women may be better off having their babies in a low technology "birth room" rather than in a high technology labour ward, provided there are no major complications during the birth.

The birth room at Queen Charlotte's is bedroom like and homely. Women using it are not offered epidural anaesthesia or continuous fetal heart monitoring, but they are with in reach of a fully equipped labour ward should things go wrong.

One hundred and forty eight women took part in the study. Just published in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, all of whom had had a previous normal delivery.

As might have been expected some of those who started out in the birth room had to switch to the labour ward as problems arose. But for those who remained there were real advantages: they felt they had

more freedom to move around, they spent less time in hospital in labour, they were less likely to be sutured after the birth and they felt more positively towards their babies.

Asked whether they would like to give birth in the same environment again, 90 per cent of those who had used the birth room said yes. Only five of 72 women allocate to have their baby in the labour ward responded positively.

Doctors at Queen Charlotte's say a much larger study will be needed to assess the true safety of the room.

Sounds successful

Test tube fertilization specialists believe that a new method of collecting eggs using ultrasound can greatly improve the ease and success of the procedure. But the technique is as yet only available at a few centres.

It uses an ultrasound scan to display the position of ripe ovarian follicles on a screen. The doctor then uses this to guide him as he inserts a fine needle through the abdomen and into the follicles so that he can aspirate the eggs.

Advocates say that the ultrasound method has several important advantages over laparoscopy which is the more usual procedure. The laparoscope allows the surgeon to view directly the inside of the body cavity, but to do this it has to be inserted through an incision in the abdominal wall and a general anaesthetic is usually needed.

Ultrasound is non-invasive and can be done under a local anaesthetic. In addition, ultrasound can "see" though the tissues of the body and so its view is not blocked by scarring.

At the Hallam Medical Centre in London, a private clinic which has close links with specialists at Professor Stuart Campbell's unit at King's College Hospital in London, all egg retrievals are done using ultrasound.

Doctors there say this policy is largely responsible for the success of the programme so far. In just 18 months they have achieved 121 in vitro fertilization pregnancies and a success rate of 25 per cent

The tipsy tots

The dangers to children of pills left out of the medicine cabinet or bleach left under the sink are well known, but it is easy to overlook another common household toxin — alcoholic drink.

In a study recently published in the *British Medical Journal*, doctors in Nottingham and Glasgow found that

143 children were admitted to hospitals in the two cities with acute alcohol poisoning between the years 1973 and 1984. Although a few had been forced to drink in violent circumstances most had been drinking of their own accord. All eventually recovered but many needed intensive care.

The biggest danger, according to paediatrician Dr John Beattie, now at Sterling Royal Infirmary, was to toddlers who fell foul of their own curiosity and drank alcohol which should have been kept out of their reach. A common problem was "Sunday morning syndrome" with children of just three or so years sampling the delights of Mum and Dad's Saturday night party.

Natural cycle

One hundred and forty eight women took part in the study. Just published in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, all of whom had had a previous normal delivery.

As might have been expected some of those who started out in the birth room had to switch to the labour ward as problems arose. But for those who remained there were real advantages: they felt they had

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Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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THE TIMES DIARY

Body snatch foiled

The newly knighted maverick of the Tory Party, Sir Richard Body, conspired spectacularly with members of the Labour Party yesterday to foil a Conservative plot...

Jo goes

As toilers on Robert Maxwell's Daily Record in Glasgow receive their redundancy notices, news reaches me that the Daily Mirror's number three, Jo Foley, has quit...

Inside sources tell me a Channel Tunnel police force of 50 Kent officers is to be formed as an independent unit, working with the French police...

Upstaged

Who says Andrew Lloyd Webber is only interested in seeing his name in lights? At the first night of Cafe Puccini by Robin Ray...

BARRY FANTONI



'Dirty, rundown, uneconomic - it seems we're just ripe for a takeover'

Extra

Fiona Halton, head of British Film Year, will not be knocking back with the other cinema glitterati at Sunday's Bafita film awards ceremony...

Brittan beat

After Red Wedge comes an even worse political intrusion on to the disco floor. A group called TDA has already sold 6,000 copies of a record featuring impressions of Leon Brittan being grilled on TV...

Roundabout

To Neil Kinnock's private distress, the election of the moderate Glenys Thornton to the chairmanship of the Greater London Labour Party is proving a hollow victory...

PHS

Maralinga: looking for a deal

Stephen Taylor reports on the tussle ahead over Australia's big radioactive clean-up

Canberra Anglo-Australian relations have recovered from the strains caused by the royal commission report into British nuclear tests in Australia since it was tabled in Parliament here four months ago...

The recommendation by Mr Justice McClelland, president of the commission, on the future of the outback sites contaminated by the tests tried to deal with a complex issue by a simple device: make Britain responsible for rendering the ranges 'fit for unrestricted habitation' by the traditional Aboriginal owners as soon as practicable...

A technical advisory group of scientists from Britain and Australia, established after ministerial talks in January, has just completed its first round of meetings and...

Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, has been complaining that too many people are in debt, and "thousands... are falling behind in their payments". You may ask what that has got to do with fair trading; the obvious answer is nothing...

He denounced finance companies, building societies and others whose business is credit (of which, I suppose, the plastic credit-card is the most ubiquitous form) for selling so much of their invisible but potent product. Such merchants are "over-selling", nay, "irresponsible", they are exerting "pressure to buy now and pay later"...

Before everybody faints dead away at the horror revealed by Sir Gordon, let us look a little more closely at his facts. He tells us that Britain's total of personal debt, excluding mortgages, is £22 billion, that is, an average of £1,000 of debt for every household in the country...

That means we are dealing with 22 million households, among which there are "thousands" of "worried debtors who've borrowed beyond their means". How many thousands? 20,000? 50,000? Shall we say 100,000? If we do, we shall discover that these feeble debtors comprise slightly less than half of one per cent of households, or something like a quarter of one per cent of adults...

From this, the only possible conclusion is that the people of this country are almost dangerously fanatical in their determination to avoid being over-indebted, and quite astoundingly successful in making sure that they are not...

For every non-existent problem there is an imaginary solution. Sir Gordon, having convinced himself that the country is drowning in unpaid debts, proposes: "Finance houses and other credit firms should put their hands in their pockets to support a chain of independent money advice centres throughout the country." Well, I suppose it would be one way of reducing unemployment among accountants...

Now before I go on to draw a moral from this tale, I must invite you to listen to a variation on a similar theme. There is a practice called "hacking", which consists of using a computer to get into other people's computer systems; apparently this is quite easily done by those with the necessary skills, who are thus in a position to "eavesdrop" on others' computerized material. The practice is not in itself illegal. Indeed, the Scottish Law Commission, which has been investigating this curious...

on-site inspections. By May, it should have submitted a report offering a range of options for clearing the worst contaminated range, the Maralinga site in Southern Australia, of around 21.5kg of toxic plutonium waste.

It is found to be an expensive business and the two governments cannot agree on who should pay. Britain holds that under the terms of a document signed by the Australian government in 1968 it has neither legal nor moral responsibility for Maralinga. The Hawke administration maintains that, as previous decontamination work was ineffective, Britain is still bound by the 1966 memorandum of agreement in which it undertook liability for "such corrective measures as may be practicable in the event of radioactive contamination resulting from tests".

Senator Gareth Evans, who as minister of resources and energy is conducting negotiations, says he has "reasonable confidence" that the two positions can be reconciled. He told me: "Our desire has been to lower the temperature after the McClelland hearings and get on with the job of making a technical assessment of our options before we get back to the negotiating table."

He said that when he met Sir Geoffrey Howe and other British ministers in January he was not surprised by their refusal formally to accept moral responsibility for cleaning up Maralinga; it would have been unrealistic to expect anything else at so early a stage.

"It is an intergovernmental problem which has to be solved in a sensitive way. I took the view that on the basis of the report - unspecified as it was on the issue of a clean-up, but very explicit about ascribing responsibility - it would be a mistake to expect the British government response to be other than what it has been."

"I believe, though, that when the technical issues are clearly on the table and it is not simply a

blank cheque that we are asking the British to sign, then they will do the honourable thing. Naturally we want the British government to pay but you don't get anywhere by screaming." To turn, the Australian side had been encouraged by Britain's co-operation and willingness to talk things through.

The government's concern for British sensibilities is in sharp contrast to McClelland's vigorous criticism of Whitehall bureaucracy during the hearings. It may even be that the two responses are related, for there is embarrassment here at some aspects of the commission's work. Editorial writers agreed that McClelland compromised his position by gratuitous "Pom-bashing".

The cabinet has not yet decided its response on the other key McClelland recommendation, that Canberra should compensate Aboriginals for loss of access to traditional lands caused by the tests. But it has disappointed Aboriginal groups by rejecting the proposal for a Maralinga commission, with Aboriginal representatives, to oversee the clean-up operation.

serve you right; in a democracy we do not prevent sane adults from making their own choices, even though we know that some of them will make choices that turn out very badly for them, and similarly we do not turn innocent behaviour into a crime because some people are embarrassed by it and cannot bestir themselves sufficiently to work out ways of avoiding the embarrassment.

I say we do not do these things; but the truth is that we do, and we do them more frequently and more extensively as time passes. Year by year, the Nanny State (I believe I coined the term) embraces us more firmly and comprehensively, tying our hands with the softest of silk cords, and bobbing our ankles with the lightest of aluminium chains, and assuring us often quite truthfully - that it is not to prevent us harming others, but to prevent us harming ourselves.

But if we do not have the chance to hurt ourselves, we shall not be able to help ourselves, either; if we are forbidden to walk into danger, we shall never be able to walk anywhere interesting; if they take away our power to do wrong, they deprive us of any meaning in doing right.

And these are not metaphors. Nanny no longer confines herself to what we are not allowed to do; gradually, she begins to concentrate on what we must do. There are many roads to serfdom, and one of the straightest and fastest is paved with the very best intentions.

It is certainly unpleasant, worrying and painful for people to see the three-piece suite and the video recorder, so cheerfully bought on credit months ago, disappearing round the corner in the recovery firm's van, and it is not enough to say that that will teach them to do a few sums before they sign next time; there are some who will never learn, and will end up without curtains or a kitchen chair. But despite them, we have got to restore the connection, now almost invisible throughout the country, between cause and effect, action and reaction, purchase and bill.

Sir Gordon Borrie would deal with the problem of debtors by condemning their creditors; the Scottish Law Commission would deal with the problem of hacking by arming the hackers' victims with both problems by first declaring that they are not problems at all, but the inevitable result of our now almost universal refusal to let anyone suffer the consequence of his own folly, or even to let anyone tell him it is folly, and after that by sending each of the worried debtors, and each of the hack-fearing firms, a handsome pokerworked board, bearing these lines of A.E. Housman:

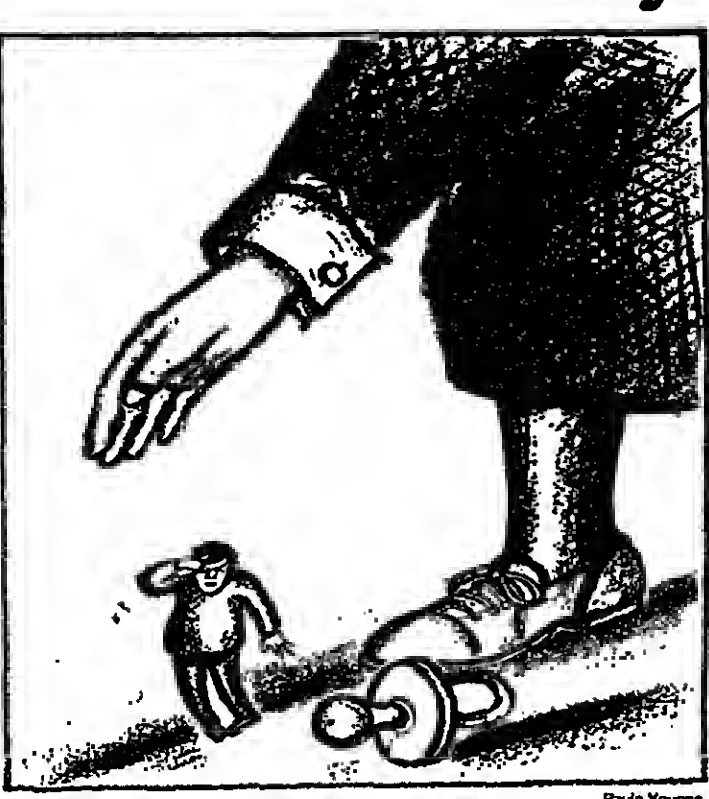
To think that two and two are four And neither five nor three. The heart of man has long been sore And long 'tis like to be.

And I would send the poker-work board COD.

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Bernard Levin

Nanny cannot save us all from our folly



sport, has just come to some extremely unambiguous conclusions on it, which it has summarized thus:

If property is not removed it does not count as theft, if records are not interfered with for gain it is not fraud, and if nothing is damaged it is not vandalism, so it does not look as though a crime has been committed.

You and I would think that, after so lucid a summary of the position, there would be nothing to add. We would, however, have reckoned without the Scottish Law Commission. Faced with a practice that makes it nervous, and discovering after exhaustive examination that the practice has the impertinence to be perfectly lawful (for the very good reason that nobody is harmed by it), it has recommended that it should be made illegal, in a brand-new category of crime all to itself, with up to two years in prison as a penalty.

Again, you and I might think that two years in choker, for no better reason than that the Scottish Law Commission had nothing to do one rainy afternoon, would be coming in a bit strong, but just listen to the words of Mr Gordon Nicholson, QC:

While a lot of hacking has been done for sheer fun there are undoubtedly people who would seek to use the activity as a form of industrial espionage.

Well, while six-foot lengths of rope are very handy for children who want to play skipping games, there are undoubtedly some people who would seek to use the commodity to strangle QCs with. But to avoid this appalling outcome, would Mr Nicholson make skipping illegal, or even rope? Surely he would do better to buy a very stiff collar? For insofar as industrial espionage is a crime already, no new laws are required to punish it if it is done by a hacker rather than by a cat-burglar, and insofar as it is not, it can hardly become one merely by being done through a computer.

What have both Sir Gordon Borrie and the Scottish Law Commission forgotten? It comes back to that word I have lately been using more and more: responsibility. There is no recorded instance of credit being forced upon an unwilling debtor at the point of a gun; similarly, no ruthless gangs, equipped with electrified cattle-prods and Doberman Pinschers, are preventing firms from taking their own precautions against industrial espionage.

Let us suppose that the "worried debtors" are numbered in their millions, not thousands; let us assume that other millions spend all their time in front of computer keyboards, hacking away 19K to the dozen. The English for both caveat emptor and vae victis is

moreover... Miles Kington

The day I spent with GBS

Nostalgia strikes in peculiar ways. One of the times I look back to with most pleasure is the four years I spent locked in a small room at Broadcasting House. I wasn't there all the time, just long enough to pick out material from the radio archives to produce a 15-minute programme every three weeks, but being shut in that cubicle with a record-player, a pile of records and all day to listen to was nearly heaven.

Making the programmes themselves wasn't so much fun. The delight lay in being able to go in of a morning and ask myself who I would like to listen to that day. George Bernard Shaw? Max Beerbohm? H.G. Wells? Whoever it was, the BBC had an ample store of them, carefully transferred to LP or, if it was old enough, 78. One day I listened all day to Bernard Shaw talking. I didn't use any of it in the programme, but it was like being granted entry to the best cocktail party in the world.

Often, the best bits came from unexpected quarters. One of the archive girls came to me one day holding a 78 record and said: "This might interest you. It's a recording of Richard Dimbleby in 1948, broadcasting in the nude."

It was, too, being a recording he had made in the Turkish baths in Jermyn Street, complete with sound effects of a masseur slapping the ample Dimbleby's flesh. Unfortunately, I had recently used that same track in a programme, but I glanced idly at the other side to see if there was anything of interest there.

It didn't sound too interesting. John Snagge interviews the oldest surviving Boat Race rower, it said. But I listened to it anyway. The man in question had rowed for Oxford in about 1872 and was now a 94-year-old vicar. The last survivor of the great Victorian days of rowing, said Snagge, and still bright and fit at 94, looking as if he could row the whole course over again. Tell me, sir, what do you remember about the Varsity Race of 1872?

There was a pause, and then the

David Watt Making peace a poll issue

Political interest in the US is acute as well, though in a rather different way. Not many of the congressmen and senators up for re-election this autumn will stand or fall by disarmament and summitry. In a situation where there are about as many votes in being strongly anti-Soviet as being in favour of another round of detente, most will stick to safer and more profitable domestic issues. Nevertheless, President Reagan obviously believes that the "peace" issue is a deep and powerful one which could have unpredictable political consequences in the US, as well as among the European allies, if it is not handled sympathetically. He has no intention of handing Gorbachov the initiative.

Tactically this means not holding the Washington summit during the mid-term election campaign, i.e. between the end of July and mid-November this year. The thought of the Soviet leader and his wife grandstanding round the US at such a time seems to produce an instinctive reaction not far from panic in American politicians. But strategically one begins to sense that in spite of strong counter-currents that could produce "Goddamn it!" gestures like restricting the size of the Soviet delegation to the UN, Reagan has accepted the implication that the US should be prepared to move a good deal further down the disarmament path than the Pentagon and the right wing think wise.

This picture suggests that, except perhaps in Japan, the immediate political onus in the West is favourable to East-West agreements. The question, of course, is whether there is a reciprocal mood in Moscow. The US negotiators in Geneva report that the Russians have been stonewalling in the round of negotiations that has just finished. It may be that this is just a matter of the leadership's preoccupation with the party congress and with important shifts in personnel, like the return of Mr Dobrynin from Washington to Moscow, which will take time to impinge on the planning of Soviet foreign policy.

All these factors, together with the loss of Soviet face over the UN delegation affair, seem likely to postpone the summit from June until late autumn in any case. But the trouble may lie deeper. Logically speaking, there is every incentive for Gorbachov to reduce the strain of the defence budget on the Soviet economy. His whole strategy of economic reform may depend on it.

But can the Russians resist their perennial tendency to overplay their hand? The West's political eagerness for a deal, and the possible differences between American, British, French and Japanese perceptions of national interests, are a powerful temptation to string the Geneva negotiations out until after the German elections in 1987 and beyond.

The danger is that if the Russians succumb they will probably find the American mood has changed again as the 1988 presidential election approaches and the political window that is now open will be slammed shut.

moreover... Miles Kington

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How hollow is Halley's heaven?

The Flat Earth Society has been very quiet about Halley's Comet. It's not like them. Usually they reply to my letters and send me copies of their newsletter, Flat Earth News. They have even made me an honorary member and supplied me with a membership card. But when I asked their Mr Johnson about the precise way in which the comet fits into their theory that the world is just a plane and the sky a dome above it - nothing, well, fallen off the edge.

The International Flat Earth Research Society, last heard of in California, has produced a map to show that the North Pole is in the centre of a vast flattened-out saucer. The so-called South Pole is actually an enormous wall of ice round the outside of the saucer.

Tesis has been done. The earth doesn't curve. Nor does it spin in space, but stays put. That is all obvious enough, as is the fact that the sky is a roof some 4,000 miles above us; just below it are the stars and planets, which are in fact "luminous discs" shuffled around by some unseen agency. We all live, it seems, in some giant Planetarium, without having to pay an entrance fee.

The only question in my mind is: where does Halley's Comet fit in? It can't come from the other

verse, like flies crawling about inside a spherical lampshade. We dwell in the bubble of a vast lump of gorgonzola. Adherents of this theory did test which show that the surface of the earth does not curve downwards (as scientists claim); nor is it dead straight (as Flat Earthers state) but instead curves upwards.

Where there is room for debate is the actual composition of the universe. Some Hollow Men hold that the sun, moon and stars are suspended in the middle of the sphere, possibly glued to a sort of heavenly tennis-ball. But one doesn't want to be dogmatic, because others again give a hollow laugh at this point and explain the heavenly bodies in quite a different way. Inside the sphere, they state, is a phantom solar system which is obscured every night by some celestial hand pumping out a bluish gas.

Some readers may cruelly retort that the only hollow space around is between the ears of anyone who believes this sort of nonsense. But to my mind the theory explains Halley's Comet perfectly.

It is like the rest of the heavenly bodies, no more. It is simply a phantom. That explains why no one has seen it. I certainly have not.

Jonathan Sale



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

NUCLEAR SILENCE

Friends of the Earth have been heard. Dr John Cunningham has been heard. Often, Dr Garret Fitzgerald and sundry members of the Daily have spoken. Mr Con Allday and various spokespeople for British Nuclear Fuels have uttered. The Prime Minister has made a brief and characteristically vigorous intervention. Mr Kenneth Baker has evinced his faith in the nuclear future. The Government Chief Whip has articulated a similar faith - but not, you understand, anywhere near his constituents in Essex. But where is the voice of the minister responsible?

Mr Peter Walker, who speaks well enough when the spirit moves him, has been strangely silent. The result is an unfortunate political void. During the past two months a chapter of accidents at BNFL have frightened the public. Anxiety could have been diminished had ministers been able to communicate a sense that whatever minor accidents might occur at Sellafield, there was a higher wisdom behind the evidently

dangerous and problematical business of nuclear reprocessing.

Thanks to Sir Hugh Rossi and colleagues, who have done yeoman service on the Environment Committee, perhaps Mr Walker will be smoked out. There are issues demanding reassurance, a sort of doctor's mandate, and there are issues demanding decision. Some glimpse is now needed of the overall energy policy which, however distrustful the government rightly remains of central plans, is surely necessary if sensible decisions are to be made about future public-sector investment and the public weal.

Because of the multiplicity of operations on the Sellafield site, the use of that name in the singular is confusing. The MPs' focus was waste, especially the higher order radioactive detritus, so conspicuously ignored when the Government recently produced its thoughts about NIREX's disposal plan. The MPs want nothing less than the revision - after only eight years - of the conclusions of

the Windscale inquiry. Here should be the text if not for Mr Walker's next speech then for one to be delivered very soon. He might, plausibly, say the economics of reprocessing are a matter for BNFL (though not insofar as the arithmetic results from the pricing policies and investment decisions of the Central Electricity Generating Board), but the location of the resulting wastes is neither a private nor a quasi-public matter. It is firmly within the public domain.

BNFL, somewhat altering the balance of argument from five years ago, now wants to argue the case for reprocessing spent fuel rods as a form of waste management. The equations are not simple. There is a balance of cost and of risk between classes of radioactive waste. Matters are rapidly reaching the point where BNFL will not be trusted to calculate those sums. An expanded version of the Joint BNFL-Energy Department review proposed by the MPs is needed. But before that Mr Walker has some talking to do.

SEÑOR GONZALEZ' HOUR OF TRIUMPH

Nato's gleeful secretary-general Lord Carrington has called the result of Spain's epic referendum, "good for the alliance, good for Europe and good for Spain." He might have added that it was good for Señor Felipe Gonzalez, who staked his political capital and won. If it was good for everyone else, it was best of all for him.

For the Western Alliance, it was - on the face of it - an enormous vote of confidence from its sixteenth member. Not only did nine million Spaniards vote in favour, but many of those eleven million who abstained belonged to the right-wing opposition, whose support for Nato was implicit anyway, but were boycotting the poll in deference to the dubious political tactics of its leaders.

For Europe the vote confirmed Spain's recent advancement to the front rank of Continental powers. A member of the Community, a partner within the Western Alliance - this country which only last autumn celebrated a decade of post-Franco democracy - has made a decision of historic importance.

The mood in Madrid last

night was one of relief that an issue which has bedevilled future planning for the past four years has been confronted. At last the country can get on with the business of living.

But Señor Gonzalez is the man who can claim the credit. He shunned the advice of those who wanted him to drop plans for a referendum, concentrated his energies upon winning it and, despite the gloom predictions of the opinion polls, has done so by a comfortable margin. With an election due by the Autumn, this moderate modern socialist has emerged much stronger than before with the prospect of winning a further four years in power.

One should beware of overstating the case. More people abstained in the referendum than voted in favour. This might be seen as proof that support for the opposition leader Manuel Fraga is alive and well. Not only that, but the high abstention vote in Catalonia and the Basque country reflected a preoccupation with other issues, primarily devolution. It was from the faithful of rural Spain that the government

drew its support this week. Elsewhere there are other issues, like unemployment - at more than 20 per cent the highest in the European Community - to concentrate the mind. Spain has made great strides to emerge as a European power, but its future in the Community will bring problems as well as solutions for its economic life, as Spanish industry fights to hold its own in a competitive world.

Moreover Nato membership in itself conceals a number of questions. In his anxiety to win a vote for his cause Señor Gonzalez committed his country to a non-nuclear policy and a non-military commitment which could in the course of time prove embarrassing for Spain's allies. And the talks with the United States over reductions on the four American bases in Spain have still to be settled.

Señor Gonzalez conducted an impassioned, personalized campaign to secure victory this week. There might come a time when the vigour of his appeal could react against him. But that is for tomorrow. No-one should begrudge him his hour of victory.

ENLIST IN CRIME PREVENTION

For a government that wrote the phrase law and order so large on its electoral banner it has been a bad week. A single crime, rape and assault in west London, has seized the nation's attention. The acquittal in the case of Leonie Darnley's murder compounded the fear. Figures published yesterday seemed to give statistical validity to an impression of rampant crime.

The picture shown by the Home Office's accounting has its encouraging aspects, such as the drop in the rate of burglary. But the growth in crimes of violence deserves Mr Hurd's epithet, bleak.

That these figures appear after seven years of "law and order" during which changes have been made to the criminal justice system, to police powers, and not least to the resources expended on police and prisons, does not connote the failure of the policy. What they show is that here, as in other branches of social policy, there is no quick fix.

It is in character for ministers, especially for Mrs Thatcher, to seize an issue of patent public concern and shake it with some vigour. She did with football hooliganism and with drugs. It is a risky approach. So with rising crime rates.

With property crime, Mrs Thatcher has shown that she accepts there is no scope for

tub-thumping. On the contrary, the seminar she held recently at Downing Street was what was required - a demonstration of the long-term and decentralized nature of the action that will have to be taken to raise the costs of crime to would-be offenders.

But ministers cannot go naked into the Commons and party meetings with schemes of crime prevention alone. And erudite dissections of the fallibility of crime statistics will not do either. They have to gird themselves with policy. The elements are already there. If they look disparate, that is as must be. On sentencing for rape, the Lord Chief Justice's words must by now have lodged in the judicial psyche. Mr Justice Pain's sternness at the Old Bailey demonstrated that the tariff for the offence already reaches far.

On police numbers Mr Hurd has promised to increase establishments. But police numbers have only a contingent relationship with the volume of crime. The sight of bobbies on patrol may boost the confidence of the public, and this is not a factor to be disregarded, but it should not be equated with arrests or, necessarily, with prevention.

There is, possibly, scope for new thinking about the penal regime. Mr Hurd has, in his short tenure at Queen Anne's Gate, displayed some of the

lineaments of a "liberal". The liberality of a Home Secretary is not to be equated with looking coolly and objectively at the effect of a regime such as the short sharp shock available for youthful offenders. Equally, liberality should not be equated with a re-examination of the case for toughening the regime inside prisons.

These are not palliatives. It may be, unhappy thought, that the country is at some indeterminate point on a wave of violent crime. There are those who, casual with their statistics and flippant with their correlations, will rush to instruct us in the causes - television, unemployment or the great imperponderable "society". The Government, if it is wise, will eschew determinism of all kinds. What politicians, police and public must attempt to do is make violent crime more difficult, and easier to detect.

This means, a cliché that deserves to be reawakened, more neighbourliness, perhaps a new sense of local altruism that may not be easy to many with the enterprising, go-getting temperament so vital to the economic life of the nation. It means, more urgently than ever before, pursuing reform of the courts. Public faith in the delivery of justice must be buoyed, to provide the one true incentive to assisting the police in their work of detection.

Ward closures
From the Director of the Association of Independent Hospitals. Sir, Whether for political dogma or not, for once the West Lambeth Health Authority members and not the Chairman appear to have got it right (report, March 12). To suggest that increasing the number of private beds at St Thomas' Hospital would generate additional net income to support the NHS is nothing short of ludicrous. In reality, the quoted figure of £72,000 income would result in a loss of disposable money because the private beds cost more to run than the income received from them, though it seems that the

continuing lack of financial awareness in the NHS and Government has yet to come to this understanding.

Whilst the Auditor General has sufficient concern to be looking at the question, it seems that others wish to ignore it for political expediency.

If West Lambeth really want to save money, a suggestion they close all their private beds - they would be better off.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RANDLE, Director, Association of Independent Hospitals, Buckingham Court, 78 Buckingham Gate, SW1.

All-rounder
From the Reverend Canon G.A.C. Grace-Hutchinson. Sir, In the days when boys left school at the age of 14 and when poorly paid jobs could be fallen in and out of, I remember a boy of 15 coming to me for a reference. I gave him one. This boy, I said, is the best of my knowledge has given complete satisfaction to all the 52 jobs he has had since leaving school.

Yours faithfully
G.A.C. GRACE-HUTCHINSON, 17 Westacres Crescent, Newcastle upon Tyne, March 7.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Freedom to compete for gas

From Mr Allen Sykes
Sir, The Secretary of State for Energy, and indeed the whole Government, are to be congratulated on the liberalisation of gas exports (report, March 7). It starts to give the same free market economic regime as oil, which turned us into the world's largest offshore oil producer in a dozen years.

Regrettably, freedom to export gas was not decided early in the first Conservative administration when first urged. Then even greater benefits for economic growth, export income and jobs would have been possible. It would also have prevented the Soviet Union gaining quite the significant position it now has in European gas supplies, particularly if Norway had co-operated with Britain.

A jointly owned offshore gasline would have benefited both countries and also a Western Europe seeking politically stable sources of energy. But this is not the time for carping. Eved belated wisdom on exports is welcome.

As the Government has now accepted the case for competition in gas markets, it should extend the logic of this step to other parts of the privatisation Bill. As I have argued in your columns before (July 8, 1985) no regulatory

Violent crime and the cloth

From the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight
Sir, After last week's horrifying attack, one may perhaps hope that politicians and others who like to sound strong and masculine will stop talking about vicarious tear-particles as stock descriptions of tame and sheltered goings-on.

A year or two ago, an incumbent in this archdeaconry disarmed and overpowered an intruder. That clergyman is over six feet tall, and has a rugged background. The intruder said, "I picked the wrong vicar, didn't I?" His children lived in terror for months afterwards.

On the night before my first Sunday as vicar of a parish in Birmingham, more than twenty years ago, we were threatened with personal violence in a midnight telephone call. When I told the churchwardens the next morning, they said, "So it was true, then?" My elderly predecessor and his wife had often told how this was happening to them, but no one believed them. A year later, the vicarage was broken into and ransacked. People simply said, "Welcome to the club."

Those of us who have lived in parsonages can tell the world a thing or two about the wild and threatening people, as well as the cranks and egg-men, who turn up on our doorsteps, in town and country. We accept it as part of the life we have embraced.

But let no one be any longer in doubt. The Old Vicarage at Grantchester was pulled down many years ago.

Yours sincerely,
F. C. CARPENTER, Binstead Rectory, Plus Lane, Ryde, Isle of Wight, March 10.

Role of the MSC

From the Hon Secretary of the Association of Colleges for Further and Higher Education
Sir, Your leader on March 4 described further education as "arguably the most important sector of educational provision", and sees it as the starting point for the current review of policy. Your argument should be extended in two ways.

Firstly, the administration of education and training should be "married", but cannot be directed by Government and/or MSC alone; it must include a strong local context. Further education responds to employment needs at local as well as national levels. Each local labour market has its special features, sometimes with needs that go against national trends.

Most colleges have independent systems of consultation with local industry - variable in quality, but improving. So, while local planning has to be within the context of national development, national planning has to be with the insight of local intelligence.

Addressing the annual general meeting of this association last week the Education Minister, Chris Patten, said that his "own model of effective national management for non-advanced FE is based firmly within the idea of partnership". This is to be welcomed and encouraged.

Secondly, concern to secure even more vocational relevance in further education should not downgrade the importance of its other functions. These include developing alternative routes into higher education (such as the BTEC diploma route to supplement the A level route and special access courses for adults), helping to secure a better public understanding of science, technology and economics, and providing non-vocational opportunities for whatever purpose individuals wish to use them.

Finally, the argument apart, the MSC is good on volume and quick in delivery, but is not yet so good on quality.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRADSHAW, Honorary Secretary, The Association of Colleges for Further and Higher Education, High Melton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, March 5.

Decline of influenza, end of the third wave

(By Our Medical Correspondent.)
The third wave of the influenza epidemic has now ended. The deaths from this disease recorded for the 96 great towns of England and Wales last week numbered 3,218, compared with 3,889 the previous week. In London, the deaths numbered 59, as against 308. What is more it has ended to date. The mysterious periodicity which the mysterious disease seems to have established for itself has been maintained.

This periodicity is roughly 12 weeks. The first wave began in July and died down about the end of August - a two month cycle. Two weeks after the beginning of the first wave - at the beginning of October - the second wave began to flow. This wave was spent by the middle of December. Again, 12 weeks after the beginning of the second wave, i.e., in January, the third wave appeared. It had begun to spend itself in the first days of March.

Meanwhile the evidence that the causative organism of the epidemic is the filter-passing germ described by the late Major Graeme Gibson and also by Captain Wilson accumulates. It is a very strong body of evidence, and to a great extent satisfies the requirements of proof laid down by Koch. That is to say, the germ can be recovered from patients affected by the disease, it can be cultivated outside the body, it can, when inoculated into mammals, reproduce the phenomena of the disease, and it can be recovered again from the inoculated animals, and again grow.

It is just the failure to understand the necessity of proof of this sort which has led so many observers to describe "germs of influenza" in these last weeks. This is, perhaps, especially true of the much debated Pfeiffer's bacillus, which was originally discovered in the 'teigheis, and has been discussed a hundred times since. The bacillus is one of the many which are very commonly present in the human nasopharynx. (Other bacilli very frequently found in healthy throats and noses are the pneumococci, the streptococci and the staphylococci.) This by no means establishes the Pfeiffer bacillus as the cause of a disease. Were such an argument admitted, there would be no limit to the number of things which might be suspected in the same connexion, e.g., baldness, soft corns - all of which occur frequently in persons suffering from influenza. We should be back again in the dark ages.

NEW VACCINE POSSIBLE
We do not think that it has been established of the Pfeiffer bacillus or of any other bacillus or coccus, except the one mentioned above, that it will produce influenza when inoculated into animals, or that it can be recovered from these animals after infection.

In the absence of proof of this kind, the statement that the bacillus is present in the throats of all influenza patients does not carry us much farther. It is, in all probability, so. It is, in all probability, so. Admittedly these "residents" may and do afflict severe illness when the resistance which normally holds them at bay is broken down. It is exceedingly improbable that they themselves are the agents which initiate the attack.

This is the reason why vaccination against influenza is not generally advised. You cannot vaccinate against a disease the exact cause of which is in doubt (though now that Major Graeme Gibson's discovery has been announced, a vaccine of a new kind may possibly be available soon). The best use that can be made of vaccination at present is to inoculate against the "residents", the germs which lie constantly in wait for their host, and visit pneumonia and blood-poisoning upon him when he is weak. And there are, as has been pointed out before in these columns, objections even to this course.

Many announcements of "cures" of the disease have been made. The public should realize that probably upwards of 80 per cent of all cases of uncomplicated influenza in this epidemic have got well by themselves - when pneumonia has supervened it has, of course, been a different story. It is easy to see that an individual treating a limited number of cases in some particular way, by some particular serum or drug, might easily have recoveries in 100 per cent of his patients. He would ascribe this good result to his drug or serum. In point of fact his patients would have recovered in any case.

Disabled drivers

From Ms Sue Jones
Sir, Dr Michael (March 1) is right in saying that doctors need a system which discourages the issue of orange badges to drivers who are not substantially disabled.

We wheelchair-users, together with other disabled people, look forward to that day, as under the present system we are paying the price.

The superintendent of my local police told me that it was the widespread abuse of the badge which led to them requesting (and being granted, as from March 27) a complete ban on disabled parking in the centre of Sutton Coldfield's pedestrianised shopping precinct. The irony is that this is one of the very few shopping centres anywhere in Britain which are accessible to independent wheelchair-users; it has no kerbs, and level entrances into all shops.

Under the West Midlands County Council ban, the newly designated parking area for disabled people is on a hill too far away and too steep for wheelchair-users. It is also too far from the shops for ambulant disabled people; indeed, anyone who could walk the 1/4 miles round trip to shop would certainly not qualify for an orange badge!

It is a sad day when abuse of the orange badge, the inability of the police to pursue the offenders, and the refusal by the county council to take seriously objections raised to their plan to bar disabled people from ever using their local pedestrianised shopping centre again.

Yours faithfully,
SUE JONES, 43 Mountford Crescent, Aldridge, Walsall, West Midlands, March 7.

Fusion of the law

From Mr Rodger Pannone
Sir, Mr Andrew Phillips ("One solicitor who says no", March 5) is of course entitled to say "no" to my committee's consultative paper, *Lawyers and the Courts: Time for some Changes*, on a possible programme for reform of the legal profession. This is a genuine consultation exercise among the public and the legal profession.

All the same, I would not wish his "no" to be based on any misconception. The paper is not proposing the fusion of the two branches of the legal profession, as Mr Phillips assumes. A strong and independent, but merged, Bar is a central feature of our proposals.

Your readers can judge the proposals for themselves, by obtaining a copy free of charge from the committee's secretary at the address below.

Yours faithfully,
RODGER PANNONE, Chairman, Contentious Business Committee, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, WC2, March 6.

Under false colours?

From Mr Peter Falstrup
Sir, As the crews are being determined for this year's Boat Race, old members of the universities must shudder with regret or turn in their graves.

This event is no longer a contest between members of those particular universities. A Cambridge or Oxford "man" is one whose undergraduate degree was earned at the respective university, and today an increasing number of the crews are neither; they graduated initially from elsewhere, and many from abroad.

In fact, one of those rowing in the Oxford boat is a Cambridge graduate, i.e., a Cambridge man - as if that isn't the last straw!

Yours sincerely,
PETER FALSTRUP, Coronation House, Hursey, Beaminster, Dorset, March 7.

Clearer Rugby

From Mr Colin MacIvor
Sir, It is time that Rugby referees came to terms with the fact that international matches are watched by millions of viewers, many of whom are unfamiliar with the intricacies of Rugby law. Even the commentators often have trouble determining the cause of a particular stoppage.

Surely it is not beyond the wit of the RFU to draw up a set of simple arm signals for the referee, indicating the nature or type of offence plus the culprit.

It might be objected that such a system would be distracting for the referee; but it works quite well for cricket umpires. Besides, it is the duty of the referee to make his decisions clear to the players.

It is a lesson we could well learn from American football.

Yours etc,
COLIN MACIVOR, 59d Fernhead Road, W9, March 2.

Meaningful terms

From Mrs S. E. Norbury
Sir, What rigorous training and searching examinations would my humble daily cleaner have to undergo to qualify as an "environmental hygienist" at a certain Portsmouth hospital featured on television recently? Presumably O-level English at the very least.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN NORBURY, 2 Parkers Cottages, Cheriton, Nr Alresford, Hampshire, March 1.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 13: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, accompanied by Captain Mark Phillips, this afternoon presented the Ritz Club Charity Trophy at the Cheltenham National Hunt Racing Festival, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire (Colonel Mar-

tin Gibbs) and the Director, Cheltenham Race Course (Captain H. Gosling).

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 13: The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

His Royal Highness, President of the Royal Jubilee and Prince's Trusts, this afternoon visited Menzieshill Community Centre, Dundee, Tayside.

The Prince of Wales, attended by Mr David Roycroft, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Maitland-Robinson and the Hon S.J. Henderson
The engagement is announced between Aidan James, only son of Mr and Mrs J.W.C. Maitland-Robinson, of Les Arbres, St Lawrence, Jersey, Channel Islands, and Susannah Jane, only daughter of Lord and Lady Farrington, of Barnsley Park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Mr D. Andrews and Mrs J. Harris
The engagement is announced between David Andrews and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs John F. Harris, of Queen's Grove, St John's Wood.

Mr J.N. Birt-Llewellyn and Miss F.M. Blair
The engagement is announced between Nigel, elder son of Mr D.J. Birt-Llewellyn, of Cleddau Court, Llangwm, Pembrokeshire, and Mrs E.A. Birt-Llewellyn, of Hazel Hill, Llanstadwell, Pembrokeshire, and Fiona, only daughter of Mrs W.C. Blair and the late Mr W.C. Blair, of Meadow Ridge, Stafford.

Mr B.S.B. Chan and Miss A.Y.K. Wong
The engagement is announced between Benny, only son of Mr K.L. Chan, of Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, and Mrs R. Wong, of Conduit Road, Hong Kong, and Ada, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.K.H. Wong, of The Peak, Hong Kong.

Captain M.R. Corbett and Miss S.L. Goodbody
The engagement is announced between Mark Corbett, of The Blues and Royals, eldest son of Count and Countess Maurice Corbett, of Yoxford, Suffolk, and Seonaid Mary, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy U. Goodbody, of Inverness.

Mr R.W. Davis and Miss C.J. Thornton
The engagement is announced between Rupert, elder son of Mr and Mrs T.J. Davis, of Middle Aston, Oxfordshire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs C.B. Thornton, of Souldern, Oxfordshire.

Mr P.D. Hale and Miss J.C. Blundell
The engagement is announced between Paul Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Hale, of Teddington, Middlesex, and Joanna Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vincent Blundell, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.S.T. J. Knowles and Miss G. Adams
The engagement is announced between Robin, eldest son of Captain and Mrs N.R. Knowles, of Alkham, Kent, and Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Adams, of Helmsford, Essex.

Dr S.J. Krikler and Miss S.L. Mendelsson
The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Judge L. Krikler, of London, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Mendelsson, of London.

Mr N.A. Mears Raby and Miss F.J. Lloyd
The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of the late Mr Jonathan Mears, of Crowborough, and Mrs Anne Edge, of Brook Farm, North Curry, Somerset, and Finny, younger daughter of Major Geoffrey Lloyd, of Hill House, Braughing, Hertfordshire, and Mrs Gillian Charter, of Elstone House, Chulmleigh, Devon.

Dr P. Riordan-Eva and Miss M.C.C. Vaughan
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel T.J. Eva and Mrs P.M. Eva, of Crowborough, and Margot Coleman Cloude, daughter of Mr T.J.G. Vaughan, CBE, and Mrs E.A.P. Crownhart Vaughan, of Portland, Oregon.

The marriage will take place on June 20 in Portland.

Dr J.J. Robinson and Miss C.L. Saville
The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Dr and Mrs K.F. Robinson, of Comergate, Repton, Derbyshire, and Helen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Saville, of Martineau Drive, Dorking, Surrey.

Mr A.M. Seama and Miss D.R. Marks
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mrs B. Simons and the late Mr M. Seama, of Hale, Cheshire, and Debra, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Marks, of Whitefield, Lancashire.

Marriages

Mr D.W. Rowley and Mrs R. McKinney
The marriage took place quietly in Gibraltar on February 19, 1986, between Mr Denis Rowley, of Algarve, Portugal, and Mrs Isabel McKinney, widow of Mr Roland McKinney.

Lieutenant-Colonel J.F. Shirriff and Major B.H. Hodgson, R.A.M.C.
The marriage took place in Berlin on March 3 of Lieutenant-Colonel John Shirriff and Major Hilary Hodgson, R.A.M.C.

Birthdays today

Sir Kenneth Alexander, 64; Miss Pam Ayres, 39; Mr Michael Caine, 53; Mr John Elton, 62; Mr R.E. Euring, 63; the Hon Alan Hare, 67; Sir Philip Hayward, 76; Sir Philip Holland, 69; Dame Margaret Kidd, 68; Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe, 64; Mr John McCallum, 68; Lord Marsh, 58; Sir Eric Norris, 68; Sir Richard Parsons, 58; Dame Betty Paterson, 70; Miss Tessa Sanderson, 30; Miss Rita Tushingham, 44; Mr John Wain, 61.

George Medal for policeman

Detective Ian Pickles, of the Queensland police force, Australia, has been awarded the George Medal for his gallantry when dealing with a man who had shot his colleague. It was announced in the *London Gazette* today.

Warehouse to be museum

Llanthony Warehouse at Gloucester docks is to undergo a £3.5 million conversion to become the new National Waterways Museum. It was announced yesterday.

The British Waterways Board said that the six-storey warehouse will become an "extensive living museum" with areas set aside in which craftsmen, such as blacksmiths, rope fender makers and canal barge painters can demonstrate their skills.

Building work financed by the board and Gloucester City Council is planned to start at the beginning of 1987 and the museum will be opened in 1988.

Lancing College

Handford House, the second boarding house for girls at Lancing College, will be officially opened today by Lady Diana, Duchess of Norfolk.

Sale room Fierce bidding for royal pictures

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

An album of watercolours that belonged to Queen Victoria was sold at Sotheby's yesterday on behalf of an unnamed descendant for £138,325.



Prince Arthur as King Henry VIII, by Winterhalter

Thomas Shotter Boys dated to the early 1830s, a new auction price record for the artist. It was bought by Morton Morris. Another Boy, a view of "The High Street, Shrewsbury" was left unsold at £2,200 (estimate £12,000-18,000).

The set of 53 leatherbound volumes, recording all the game shot by the Earl of Ripon, between 1871 and 1923 together with 14 notebooks dating from 1865 and 30 game cards from various estates, including Sandringham, were sold by Sotheby's Sussex yesterday for £48,400 (estimate £30,000-£50,000) to an English private collector.

Acknowledged as the finest shot of his time, Ripon was a close friend of George V, treasurer to Queen Alexandra, a connoisseur and good amateur artist - his game books are filled with amusing sketches as well as enormous statistics.

In 1884, for instance, he shot 10 red deer, 3,073 grouse,

Most of the drawings had been given to Victoria, though she purchased a few of them and they had been kept in the album ever since. That meant that they were in pristine condition with unfaded colours.

The combination of royal provenance and superb condition made for some startlingly high prices.

An enchanting watercolour by Winterhalter, her favourite portraitist, of Prince Arthur aged three dressed up as his ancestor, King Henry VIII, sold for £18,700 (estimate £5,000-£8,000) to H.Fritz-Denneville, a London dealer.

Other royal or historic subjects were also fiercely competed for. Eugene Lami's watercolour of "The Translation of the Ashes of Napoleon" to the Invalides on December 15, 1840 with soldiers parading, packed crowds and even a group of spectators on the roof of the Invalides itself, made £15,400 (estimate £2,000-£3,000) to Mackinnon.

A watercolour of Elizabeth, Empress of Austria driving a horse sleigh in the park of Schonbrunn secured £13,200 (estimate £2,000-£3,000). The romantic empress, known as Sissi, was the daughter of the Duke of Bavaria and a famous horsewoman who fretted at the restraints laid on her by the Austrian court. Sotheby's had not identified the name of the artist.

Six minor drawings from the album failed to find buyers and the cheapest was a "Study of an old woman" by an unknown German artist at £55 (estimate £200-£300).

The top price in the watercolour sale was £55,000 (estimate £40,000-£60,000) for a very detailed view of "Paris from the river Seine" by

3,523 partridges, 4,347 pheasants, 70 snipe, 50 wild duck, 20 wild geese, 134 woodcock, 713 hares, 1,896 rabbits and 407 "various". He died as he had lived: "At the last drive Lord Ripon killed 51 grouse, and at 3.15pm while the last birds were being brought in he fell down dead."

A 12-bore hammer non-ejector gun, one of a set of three built by Purdey's for Lord Ripon in 1890, sold for £6,600 (estimate £3,000-£5,000). The gun sale totalled £288,585 with 11 per cent unsold.

Late nineteenth century ivory carvings and late seventeenth century Kakiemon porcelain were the most popular features of Sotheby's morning sale of Japanese works of art yesterday which totalled £417,175 with seven per cent left unsold.

A 15-inch ivory figure of a hunter by Ishikawa Komei sold for £20,900 (estimate £5,000-£8,000) to Fujikura, a Japanese dealer, setting a new auction price record for an ivory carving of the Meiji period (1868-1912).

The Japanese normally look on these late carvings as tourist items and leave the market to Westerners but in this case the sculptor was the founder of the Tokyo school of ivory carvers and Japanese bidders showed that they took his work very seriously indeed.

A nine-inch Kakiemon porcelain bottle with fine landscape decoration made another top price at £14,300 (estimate £5,000-£7,000).

A big tile panel recounting the story of Cinderella made by Morris and Co to designs by Burne-Jones and Philip Webb for the famous Victorian mansion, proved the star attraction for Phillips' morning sale. Art Nouveau selling for £12,100 (estimate £3,000-£5,000) to the Fine Art Society. The sale totalled £177,554 with 12 per cent left unsold.

Luncheon

Ministry of Defence
Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of the Defence Staff, and the United Kingdom Chiefs of Staff were hosts yesterday at a luncheon held at Admiralty House in honour of Admiral Lee Baggett, Jr. USN, Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic.

Dinners

Lord Tordoff
Lord Tordoff was present at the annual dinner of the London section of the Old Mancunians Association held at the House of Lords last night. Mr I.O. Sheppard was in the chair and the principal guests and speakers were Mr Denis Richards and Mr Geoffrey Parker, High Master of Manchester Grammar School.

Service dinner

Bristol University Air Squadron
Bristol University Air Squadron held its annual dinner last night at RAF Locking. Squadron Leader C. Hilliker, Commanding Officer, presided, and the guest of honour was Air Vice-Marshal E.H. Macey, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant of RAF College Cranwell. The other guests included Sir John Kingman, Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University, Professor F.S. Stone, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Bath University, and Dr A.H. Spedding, Pro-Director of Bristol Polytechnic.

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will attend the naming of a Midland Region electric locomotive on April 10 at Euston Station as part of the university's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The Queen will visit St Peter's Church, Old Windsor, on April 10, to view the restoration work. Princess Anne will take the salute at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on April 11 and, in the evening, as Patron of the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, will attend a gala choral concert in aid of Operation Dhaka at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, will present the Cricket Writers' Club Young Cricketer of the Year trophy for 1985 to Mr David Lawrence on April 11 at the Phoenix County Ground.

Princess Anne, Patron of the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, will attend a gala choral concert in aid of Operation Dhaka at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on April 12.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit Gloucester on April 14 to unveil the memorial to the Duke of Beaufort in Gloucester Cathedral and to open the new Widdow Primary School.

Princess Anne, Patron of the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit the new Hamley Royal Regatta headquarters on April 16.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the new Hamley Royal Regatta headquarters on April 16.

Princess Anne will attend the Piper Champagne National Hunt Awards at Cheltenham Racecourse on April 16.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will attend a dinner given by the Canadian High Commissioner and Mrs McMurtry on April 17.

The Prince of Wales, Chairman of the Prince of Wales Committee, will visit environmental projects supported by the Prince of Wales Trust in April 18 and thereafter attend the fiftieth meeting of the committee at the City Hall, Cardiff.

The Prince of Wales will start the 1986 London Marathon at Blackheath on April 20.

University news

Wales
The University College of Swansea will confer honorary fellowships on the following in July: Dr E.G. Bowen, FRS, Professor Y.K. Cheung, Dr Cedric M. Hassall, Emeritus Professor D.H. Hey, FRS, Mr G.R. Howell, Dr Ivor Jenkins, FRCGS, Mr Brian Howe Jones, Alan Morgan Richards and Professor Paul Wilkinson.

Leicester
Lord Winstanley has been elected deputy pro-chancellor in succession to Mr Cyril Smith, MP.

Dr Preston King, professor of political science at the University of New South Wales, has been appointed to a chair in the department of politics from August 1.

Dr John Sommerville, lecturer in computer science at Strathclyde University, has been appointed to a chair in computer science from July 1.

Lecturership: Mr B.N. Armstrong, Lecturer in Mathematics and Dr J. Herrie-Watt.

The title of honorary professor has been conferred on Sir Robert Grieve, a former chief planner at the Scottish Office, and Dr Derek Lyddon, formerly chief planning officer, Scottish Development Department.

The honorary degree of LL.D. will be conferred on Sir Alexander Jobson, chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, 1958 to 1968, on July 12.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Dr Ivan Duxastay to be Director General of the British Standards Institution from June 1, in succession to Mr Derek Spickernell.

Mr John Holt to be Chairman of the North West Electricity Consultative Council.

Mr Philip Nash to be a Commissioner of Customs and Excise.

The following to be members of the management board of the British National Space Centre: Mr Hugh Fish (Natural Environment Research Council), Mr John Yonson (Met Office), Mr Alan MacDonald (Department of Trade), Mr Tom Mayer (UK Industrial Space Committee), Professor Bill Mitchell (Science and Research Council), Mr Robin O'Neill (Foreign Office), Professor Kenneth Pounds (Leicester University) and Rear Admiral John Slater (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff). Mr Roy Gibson's appointment as director general of the centre was announced last year.

Latest wills

Spinster leaves £6.7m estate
Miss Joan Frances Paget, of Nantpanan, Leicestershire, left an estate valued at £6,777,040 net. Mr Joseph Yamasada, of London SW, left an estate valued at £541,358 net. After two personal bequests, he left the remainder of the estate equally between Dr Barnardo's and the Cancer Research Campaign.

Other estates include (net, before tax): Mr Harold Percy of Lyndhurst, £290,673; Donald, Mr David Mitchell Cooke, of Plumpton, East Sussex, £431,048; Frost, Mr Arthur, of Newport, Shropshire, £292,919; Mrs John Robert Williams, of Shiremoor, Tyne and Wear, coal miner, £116,842; Price, Mr Alfred Norman Cresswell, of Eastbourne, £378,000; Stammers, Mr Geoffrey Victor, of Hallsbam, East Sussex, £293,269.

OBITUARY SONNY TERRY Master of the blues harmonica

Sonny Terry, the country blues singer and harmonica player, died in New York on March 11. He was 74.



He was born Saunders Teddell Terry on December 24, 1911. Blind in both eyes by the time he was 16 as a result of separate accidents, he grew up in Durham, North Carolina, where he evolved his emotive, vocal blues style on the sidewalks and in local medicine shows.

In the years of the Depression he teamed up with two other blind musicians, one of them the legendary Blind Boy Fuller, with whom he was to make a number of recordings. He made his New York debut in the celebrated *Spirituals to Swing* concert at Carnegie Hall in 1939.

After Blind Boy Fuller's death in 1941 he joined forces with the vocalist and guitarist Brownie McGhee, with whom a fruitful association was to last for over forty years.

In 1946-47 he appeared in the Broadway show, *Finian's Rainbow*, for which his composition "Hootin' the Blues" was used as a prelude, and in 1956 he was in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

With McGhee, Terry maintained a busy touring schedule which frequently involved

two overseas tours a year. They were heard at folk and blues festivals throughout the USA and Canada and made lengthy visits to Britain and Europe over the years. In 1960 they were a great success on a tour of India and they visited Australia in 1965.

Despite a lifestyle which became increasingly urban, Terry remained an unspoiled country blues artist. Almost to the end he was capable of intensely moving singing which he punctuated with pithy and ferociously sardonic comments on the harmonica, on which it was said of him by one critic, he "bent" single notes till they cried for mercy.

BERNARD LAFOURCADE

Bernard Lafourcade, an authority on modern literature and on Wyndham Lewis in particular, died on March 2 in his native Grenoble after a long illness. He was 51.

The son of Professor Georges Lafourcade, the biographer of Swinburne, he was a brilliant scholar who carried forward with learning, exuberance and style, the role of bridge-builder between his own culture and Anglo-Saxony.

He wrote both in English and in French, introducing, editing and annotating splendid new editions of fiction by Lewis for the Black Sparrow Press of California, and publishing essays which cast fresh, Gallic light on whole areas of literature and art in which Lewis had concerned himself.

Lafourcade translated half-a-dozen of Lewis's works into French, thereby giving him his first airing in the land so revered by the author of *Tarr*.

Lately he and his wife, Pierrette, had made available to French readers a sparkling selection of that pugnacious Briton's judgements on France.

In addition, he collaborated with Bradford Morrow to produce a comprehensive bibliography of Lewis.

Educated at Grenoble, Oxford and the Sorbonne, Lafourcade lectured in English Literature at the University of Savoie, Chambéry. The audience who heard him speak during the Lewis centennial symposium at the Tale in 1982 came away envious of his classes at Chambéry.

Perhaps his finest legacy is his compilation of Lewis's early fiction under the title *The Complete Wild Body*, of which one English reviewer said: "It is a pleasure to salute a scholarly edition of such exemplary beauty and clarity."

SEÑOR JOSE MARTINEZ

Senor Jose Martinez, a Spanish publisher in exile during the Franco regime whose press, *Rueda Iberica*, printed many books which were circulated among the opposition in Spain in those years, has died in obscurity in Madrid. He was 64.

Born in Valencia, Martinez fought in an anarchist column in the Spanish Civil War. Afterwards he was arrested but, being a minor, he was sent to a reformatory, where he spent two-and-a-half years.

Following a second arrest, he fled, in 1948, into exile in Paris, where in 1961, with a fellow opponent of the Franco regime, Nicolas Sanchez Albornoz, he founded *Rueda Iberica* for the purpose, initially, of publishing Gerald Brenan's *The Spanish Labyrinth*.

Subsequently he published scores of books which were proscribed by censors of the Franco regime but which were smuggled into Spain and had wide currency among the opposition.

Their authors included not only Bretonan, but Hugh Thomas, Gabriel Jackson and a long list of Spanish writers.

Martinez returned to Spain in 1978, and soon afterwards his publishing venture was closed. He subsequently worked as an editor and translator.

MRS JESSIE THOMAS

A. R. G. R. writes: Mrs Jessie Thomas, MBE, who died recently at the age of 107, spent virtually her entire professional life as a teacher of handicapped children in South London.

In the early years of World War II, as headmistress of Meeting House Lane School, Peckham, she organised the education of 500 handicapped children from her own and three other schools.

She took charge of their education and welfare for the duration of the war, first near

MR CHRISTOPHER COLLARO

Mr Christopher Collaro, OBE, who died on March 1 at the age of 90, founded Collaro Limited in 1920 which became one of the world's largest manufacturers of pick-ups, tape decks, electric motors and record changers.

He himself designed and manufactured some of the first commercial record changers in the 1930s.

During the war he devoted his energies to the manufacture of defence equipment including Bofors, Oerlikon and mortar shells.

He was appointed OBE for his war services.

After the war he developed overseas markets, was a member of many boards and a chairman of Hartley-Baird.

MR DAVID MACINDOE

A correspondent writes: Mr David Macindoe, who died on March 3 at the age of 68, had been nearly all his life associated with Eton College.

Brought up in the Cloisters, son of a College Bursar, he took up a scholarship at the school in 1931, returned as a master in 1946, and after 33 years on the staff, moved back into the Cloisters in 1979.

His schooldays were marked by his prowess at games, particularly at cricket where his bowling for the Eton XI and for Oxford as a Freshman led to a place in the "Gentlemen's" side of 1937.

He went to Oxford in 1936 as an exhibitor of Christ Church.

During the war he saw service with the Royal Artillery, with whom he fought in France and was awarded the MC. After the war he returned briefly to Oxford for a degree and a season as captain of the university cricket XI.

when he seemed due to curtail his activities and retire, his timely appointment as Vice-Proctor offered fresh stimulus and scope. Mr Macindoe had risen to the occasion with more enjoyment or more success.

Mr Charles A. Halleck, a Republican who served 16 terms in the US House of Representatives including two, 1946-48 and 1952-54, as majority leader, died on March 3 at the age of 85.

He also served as minority leader until he was defeated in 1965 by Mr Gerald Ford, who went on to become president.

Lady Orr, wife of the Rt Hon Sir Julian Orr, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, died on February 16. She was Mariana Frances Lilian, daughter of the late Captain J.A.C. Lang.

Iwachi Fujitawa, who helped organize the Indian National Independence Army during World War II, has died in a Tokyo hospital. He was 72.

FUR SALE

FINAL CLEARANCE

2 DAYS ONLY
THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

OUR LIQUIDATION SALE

Our liquidation sale is drawing to a close but we still have hundreds of fur bargains in stock. Marmot jackets from full skins. **ONLY £125**

DESIGNER COATS AT UNBEATABLE PRICES!

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Science report How fish use electrical signals

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The social and mating behaviour of fish, which communicate and navigate using electrical currents generated by their own bodies, is being studied by scientists at Sheffield University.

The researchers in the department of psychology, supported by funding from the Science and Engineering Research Council, have been studying these novel electrical patterns in bony fish which possess electrical sensing abilities.

The two orders known to have these electrical sensing qualities are the South American gymnotiformes (knife fish) and the African mormyromorphs (elephant nose fish and relatives).

The Sheffield work is studying the gymnotid group in the laboratory and in their natural habitat in the rivers, forests and coastlines of French Guiana. The electric pulses are generated from the fishes' tails, called electric organ discharges (EOD).

These pulses, which are one to two millimetre long with a peak of three volts, are repeated at definable frequencies between 10 and 100 hertz.

The pulses generate a small electric field around the fish. The exact shape of the field depends on the immediate environment, the conductivity of the water and the properties of the objects and boundaries close to the fish.

The researchers say: "The distortion of the field pattern informs the electroreceptive system of the position, conductivity and relative movements of objects. Each EOD gives the fish a 'snapshot' electrical view of the surroundings, providing it with an active navigation system unmatched by its competitors in the nocturnal aquatic world".

This system helps the fishes to detect objects within a range of 10 centimetres and communicate with each other over three metres.

The work at Sheffield has concentrated on the social behaviour which results from the electrical phenomenon. Fish are able to code these electrical signals to threaten an enemy or to indicate their readiness for mating.

"More recently our attention has switched to the relatively invariant EOD waveforms which is fixed for an individual for much of its lifetime," say researchers. "In nearly every case there are species, size and age classes with the pulse itself. The EOD is therefore rich in information potentially useful in a variety of social behaviours".

Source: *Science and Engineering Council Bulletin*, spring 1986.

THE ARTS

Television
Tip of a criminal iceberg

TV Eye (ITV) reported from Palermo on the trial of 474 suspected Mafia members which is taking place in a specially constructed, fortified court building and is expected to last for 18 months. The judges, jurors and lawyers arrive each day in armoured cars, and police guards are posted at their homes at night.

The background to the case is a period of almost ten years in which the Sicilian Mafia attempted to corner the European end of the world trade in heroin, importing the drug from the East, processing it in large factories and supplying it to the United States. The turnover of this business was estimated at around £1m. a day.

Hard facts were evidently not easy to come by in this investigation, which did little more than navel the tip of a criminal iceberg. However one local politician estimated that one-fifth of the commercial life of Palermo was attributable to the false prosperity consequent on Mafia activity.

While legal action continued in the building nicknamed "The Banker", school teachers were supervising courses of anti-Mafia studies and encouraging small children to express in drawings what the criminal organization meant to them.

To the American writer Saul Bellow all this would probably have seemed part of a meaningless flow of media events. In *Voices* (Channel 4) he discussed the direction of modern life with the British writer Martin Amis and the historian Michael Ignatieff. All three repeatedly expressed concern that the public world of television was invading the private world of individual responsibility and reducing modern life to an incoherent, piecemeal experience — a sort of Chinese meal for the human spirit, satisfying in the short term but soon producing a renewed hunger.

Even death, Bellow argued, had become less an authentic part of life than part of the meaningless flow of events. All this sounded extremely bleak; *Voices* is the kind of television programme which aims to give the viewer the experience of sitting at the dinner-table of a spiritual master.

However, both writers were so willing to agree with each other that the quality of their research was never questioned. While they spoke eloquently of a channel-hopping, distracted society with the attention-span of a flea, it was hard to imagine either of them actually taking part in it.

Celia Brayfield

Cinema
Marvellous tale of optimism

Echo Park (15)
Cannons Tottenham
Court Road, Pantons
Street

Young Sherlock
Holmes and the
Pyramid of Fear (PG)
Plaza

Jagged Edge (18)
Leicester Square Theatre

Clockwise (PG)
Warner West End

Echo Park is one of Hollywood's hallowed sites. Dozens of Keystone slapstick comedies were shot there in the innocent years before the First World War. Charlie Chaplin's outrageous little tramp flirted on its benches, was chased through its shrubberies by irate husbands and deposited scores of stout parties in the lake. Later the evangelist Aimee Semple MacPherson chose Echo Park for her gospel temple, where Marilyn Monroe was taken by her devout, demented mother to be baptized.

The park is still there, though the residential area around has declined, becoming the haven of minor Bohemians, new Hispanic immigrants and impoverished optimists like May and Jonathan and August, the chief inhabitants of Robert Dornhelm's marvellous film *Echo Park*.

They share an old duplex house that has seen better days, socially speaking, and there, prey to the tinsel lures of Hollywood, they devote themselves to their dreams. The charm is that these dreams are so modest and meagre. May wants to be an actress but convinces herself that her current work as a stripogram girl is the best possible training. Jonathan, the pizza delivery boy, is a secret song-writer.

August, an Austrian body-builder, brings the household a taste of stardom with an appearance in a deodorant commercial, though he never achieves his higher ambition, to shake hands with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The family is completed by May's eight-year-old son Henry, who is growing up fast and watches with a shrewd and critical eye as May — despite her insistence on the perils of sex and money — wavers between the two men, innocently inflicting injury upon their egos and emotions. Light and funny though it all is, we are still made to feel acutely with poor August's assorted humiliations, and young Henry's trauma when he chances to witness one of May's less distinguished strip performances. These poor fools are very real people, whose feelings matter. There is, too, an uplifting optimism about *Echo Park*. May and Jonathan and August may be victims of the Hollywood illusion, but they will always win through by their resilience and capacity for affection.

The performances are exemplary and irresistible. Susan Dey comes from television; Tom Hulce, as Jonathan, intelligently follows up his *Amadeus* success with a shoe-string assignment that exploits all his charm and skills; Michael Bowen, who gives August an impeccable Austrian accent as well as ripping muscles, is another clever Carradine brother; and Christopher Walker is a wonderfully down-to-earth and attractive child actor.

The most surprising aspect of this funny, touching piece of contemporary Americana is that it is an Austrian production (apart from the development finance put up by Bill Ryman of the Rolling Stones, who also contributed a song and acted as musical consultant). The writer, Michael Ventura, is American; the Austrian director Robert Dornhelm is a 38-year-old veteran of numerous documentaries, who won an Oscar for *Children of Theatre Street*. More recently his tribute to Nijinsky's eccentric daughter Kira, *She Dances Alone*, revealed the qualities of indulgence, amusement and respect which elevate *Echo Park*.

The regular formula of Steven Spielberg-produced adventure films belongs to a tradition that links Gothic romance with *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Rover*, Saturday morning matinee serials and *Flash Gordon*. Somewhere around the halfway point the heroes of any Spielberg fantasy are sure to find themselves in a maze of dark, mysterious tunnels that lead to subterranean realms, a decorative underworld where they do desperate battle with



Tom Hulce as Jonathan the pizza delivery boy in *Echo Park*, intelligently following up his success in *Amadeus* with a shoe-string assignment that exploits all his charm and skill

the forces of evil. They emerge victorious of course, but only after overcoming rituals of fire, flood, earthquake and holocaust that seem like lingering memories of medieval notions of hell.

So the heroes of Young Sherlock Holmes and the Pyramid of Fear find their way from the decorum of mid-Victorian London to the prehistoric inferno. The villains, an Egyptian religious sect, have chosen Wapping (of all familiar places) to build a great underground pyramid where they practise human sacrifice. The pyramid is razed and its worshippers are annihilated thanks to the teenage Holmes, conducting his first big case with portentous ingenuity, nerve and improbable good luck.

A prehistory title declares that the film is not based on authentic Conan Doyle stories but is "an affectionate speculation" about the formative years of the great detective. The star of his school, he befriends a podgy, good-natured custard-tart fancier called Watson, and astounds his peers with feats of deduction. The strategy of choosing this part of Holmes's life is self-evident: the teenage spectators who make up most of today's audience are thus given heroes of their own age-group. The main parts are amiably and professionally sustained by Nicholas Rowe, 19-year-old Etonian son of a Conservative

MP, and Alan Cox, the (in this instance) owlish 15-year-old son of the actor Brian Cox.

Despite vagueness over the period setting, the first, establishing section of the film, set in the school, is pleasant enough, with a wealth of juicy character parts. The Pyramid of Fear part is standard Spielberg fare, aimed straight at the kids, and with special effects in the ascendency.

The problem today is that special effects have arrived at such seemingly effortless expertise that they cease to astonish — except with such rare novelties as the animation of a transparent and two-dimensional knight, straight from a stained-glass window.

The film was directed by Barry Levinson, whose earlier, more sophisticated works were *The Natural* and *Diner*. The writer, Chris Columbus, cut his teeth on rather less sophisticated scripts in the same idiom as this, *Gremlins* and *Goonies*.

Jagged Edge is a thriller effectively enough written (by Joe Eszterhas) and directed (by Richard Marquand) to hold the interest even though the mechanics are exposed and the denouement may be guessed half an hour before it comes. Jeff Bridges plays a rich man on trial for the murder of his young wife (a nasty sex crime, but that is the taste of the day); Glenn Close is

the attorney whose determination to win his acquittal is motivated by guilt over an earlier case mishandled as well as her growing vulnerability to the accused man's charm.

Comedy and catastrophe are proverbially divided only by a hair's breadth; and this is the trouble with *Clockwise*, directed by Christopher Morahan from a script by Michael Frayn. It has a classic comic form, the escalation of misfortunes; but after a cheerful start the misfortunes become too numerous and too painful for laughter. John Cleese, the headmaster of a model comprehensive school, is elected to the unwanted glory of Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference. His journey to this momentous event is so beset that by the time he arrives — wearing the clothes of a shorter man and pursued by police and lunatics — his mind has snapped completely. The ending is as comic as *King Lear*.

Cleese is funny where he may be, and this is mostly in the opening, before catastrophe takes hold. Some crazed authoritarian cousin of Basil Fawlty, he stands in his office window, administering the school with the aid of binoculars and a public address system; or harangues the assembly hall with the awful, unforgettable oratory of headmasters.

David Robinson

Theatre
Music fighting against story

Café Puccini
Wyndham's

Robin Ray is not the first to have spotted the parallels between Puccini's operas and his private life; but there has been nothing — not even Tony Palmer's restaging of *Turandot* as a story of the composer and his housemaid — to rival Mr Ray's remorseless enterprise in laying on a show about Puccini's ghastly marriage, the suicide of Doria Manfredi, and his atrocious death, as an entertainment for the great man himself.

Café Puccini evidently sprang from the bright idea of threading his biography on a string of Palm Court arrangements of his best-known arias. You can see such a modest, informal little show in your mind's eye. Putting it into effect, however, raises numerous obstacles, over every one of which Mr Ray comes to grief.

Lyrics have to be changed to fit the new situation, and a fine old hash is made of that. A pretext has to be found for the performance, so Puccini is brought on as guest of honour. Then, with a painful gear-change, he joins in the performance as one of the actors. The comedy proceeds to his death; then the lights go up and the company crowd around the maestro, miraculously restored to health, asking whether he enjoyed their little pantomime. As if that were not enough, the prima donna reverts to her role as cashier and hands him a bill. Puccini, in other words, has ordered the show himself, on top of which the cashier quits the premises before he has paid for it.

As for the main story, there are two capably written marital rows which Lewis Flander and Nicola McAuliffe put over with weary, battle-scarred ferocity. Those scenes entirely depart from the vaudeville style, but they are



Lewis Flander: weary, battle-scarred ferocity

go with the disastrous *Butterfly* notices. Enter Doria Manfredi who tells us that she is Doria Manfredi and that she came to work for Mr Puccini when she was 16.

Giulio Ricordi, as Puccini's ally, periodically potters on as a fatherly party, warning his protégé on the perils of indiscriminate fornication. But when we meet rival composers there is no telling one buffoonish *petit maître* from another.

Whatever light comic atmosphere fitfully develops is extinguished whenever William Bleazard and his six players strike up the next number. Torn out of context, the music was bound to bring the narrative to a halt, and it would have been better if Mr Ray had simply accepted that. Instead, he has tried to relate the songs to the events; so that when Puccini announces that

he lost his father in childhood that is a cue for Jacinta Mulcahy to launch into "O mio habbino caro". Later, when Puccini is wildfowling his way through the operatic capitals, we get the amazing spectacle of Elvira, the heavy-weight mistress of the Via-reggio mansion, shambling on in a tea-gown with lighted cigarette to pour her matrimonial grievances into "Un bel di".

Palm Court orchestration is one thing; but there is no comparable way of scaling down the vocal lines. Christopher Renshaw's company do their gallant best, but there are no operatic voices there; and I leave you to imagine the effect of a bald description of Puccini's throat operation backed with a quavering account of "In questa reggia".

Irving Wardle

Michael Rennison's production was discreet (except for a bold revelation of the glaciated bridegroom "nude as the sun"), with minimal props, grey costumes, dim lighting and lecterns at which the principals could keep their scores handy. But this was an advantage in leaving the limelight for the rich cool of Henze's chamber orchestral textures, brilliantly and intricately realized by the Sinfonietta under his own direction.

The cast was excellent. Stephen Roberts was an irascible lot of a poet. Linda Hirst an embittered Lina and Penelope Walmsley-Clark an astonishingly accurate, phosphorescent exponent of the mad woman's coloratura. Teresa Cahill and Philip Langridge, the one tenderly radiant to the other's fine-nerved audacity, were the lovers.

Paul Griffiths

Royal Philharmonic Society concert

LPO/Tortelier
Festival Hall/
Radio 3

There is usually a good reason why an "undiscovered masterpiece" by a great composer remains unplayed. Debussy's *Khamma*, receiving its British premiere 75 years after its composition (the French have not exactly flaunted it, either), is no masterpiece. Nevertheless the flaws in this 20-minute *legende danse*, one of Debussy's last works and mostly orchestrated by Charles Koechlin, stem chiefly from its unbalanced scenario, constructed by a *Daily Telegraph* literary editor for an English ballerina who seems to have been as nutty as a fruitcake but who paid Debussy handsomely.

front of a sun-god to save her city from marauding barbarians (an unpromising ploy, but apparently successful). One can imagine Torvill and Dean doing it nicely.

Debussy follows this plot too slavishly. The musical climax — a thrilling thickening of texture and quickening of pace at the moment of death — should end the piece, but instead a conventionally pictorial melodrama follows. However, the dances themselves and the throbbing, low-voiced ostinato that opens the whole work contain much fine writing: quintessential falling chromatic motifs for woodwind, sinuously twisting string tunes and mysterious, abruptly appearing fanfares are woven together artfully.

Both here and in Ducas's orchestral poem *La Péri* (another undeservedly neglected work, full of silky effects) Yan

Pascal Tortelier was better at obtaining idiomatic instrumental timbres and well-judged balances from the London Philharmonic Orchestra than in demanding a tight ensemble or instilling the appropriate feel for rubato. But this Royal Philharmonic Society concert also included Henri Dutilleul's 1970 "cello concerto", *Tout Un Monde loimain*, and here conductor and orchestra gave a careful account of this sparse, exact and exquisite music.

Not that one was much aware of this background when the ardently lyrical soloist, Felix Schmidt, was playing. He scampered with a deft, light bow through the immensely complex scherzo passages, and in the two slow movements produced rare tonal beauty at an altitude few cellists would dare to attempt.

Richard Morrison

at least alive. Otherwise, the story simply jumps from anecdote to anecdote, despatched either in limply stereotyped dialogue or in narrative that could have been lifted from any account of his life. Here is Puccini playing cards with his cronies at the Club la Bohème: three speeches in, and off we

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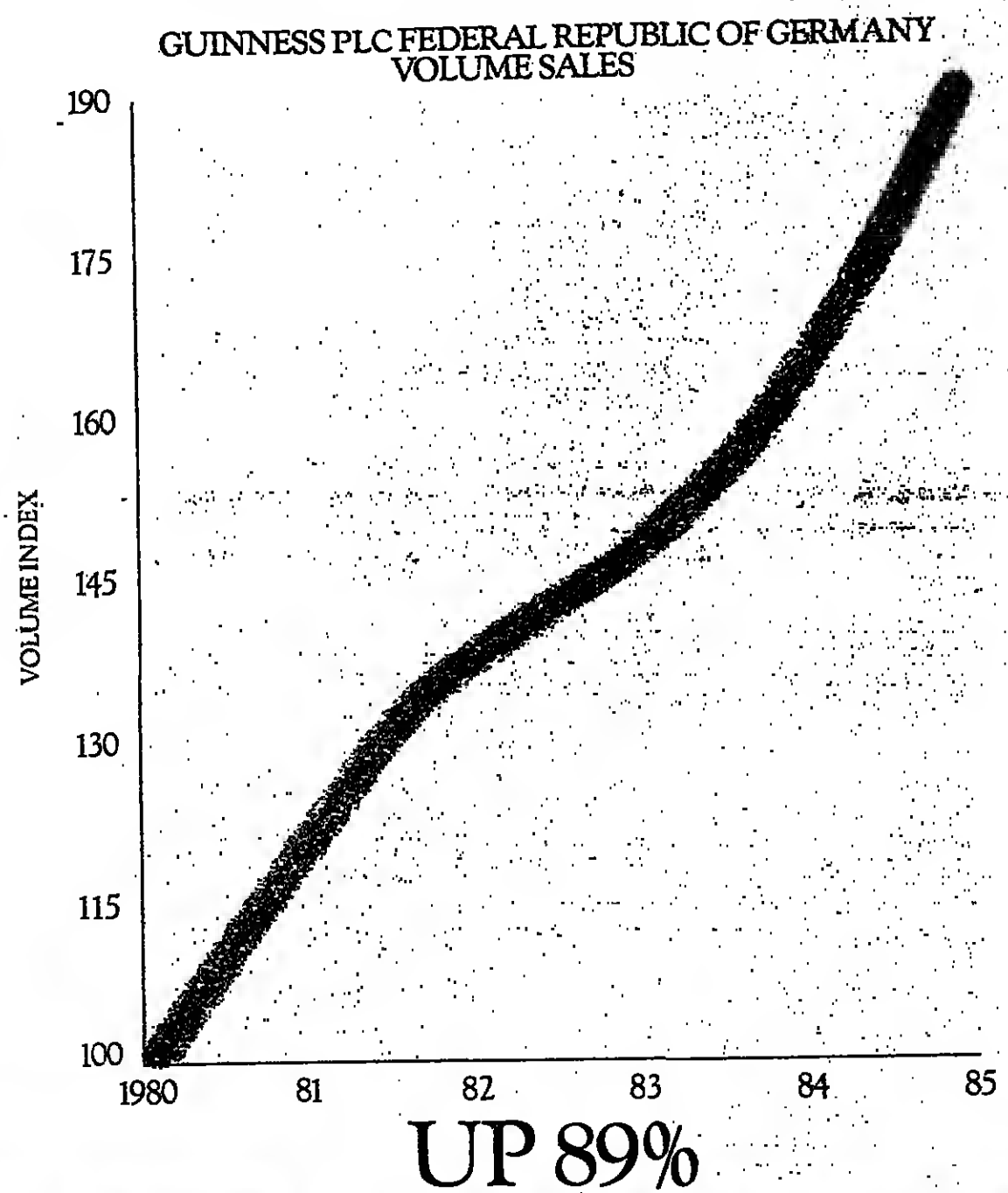
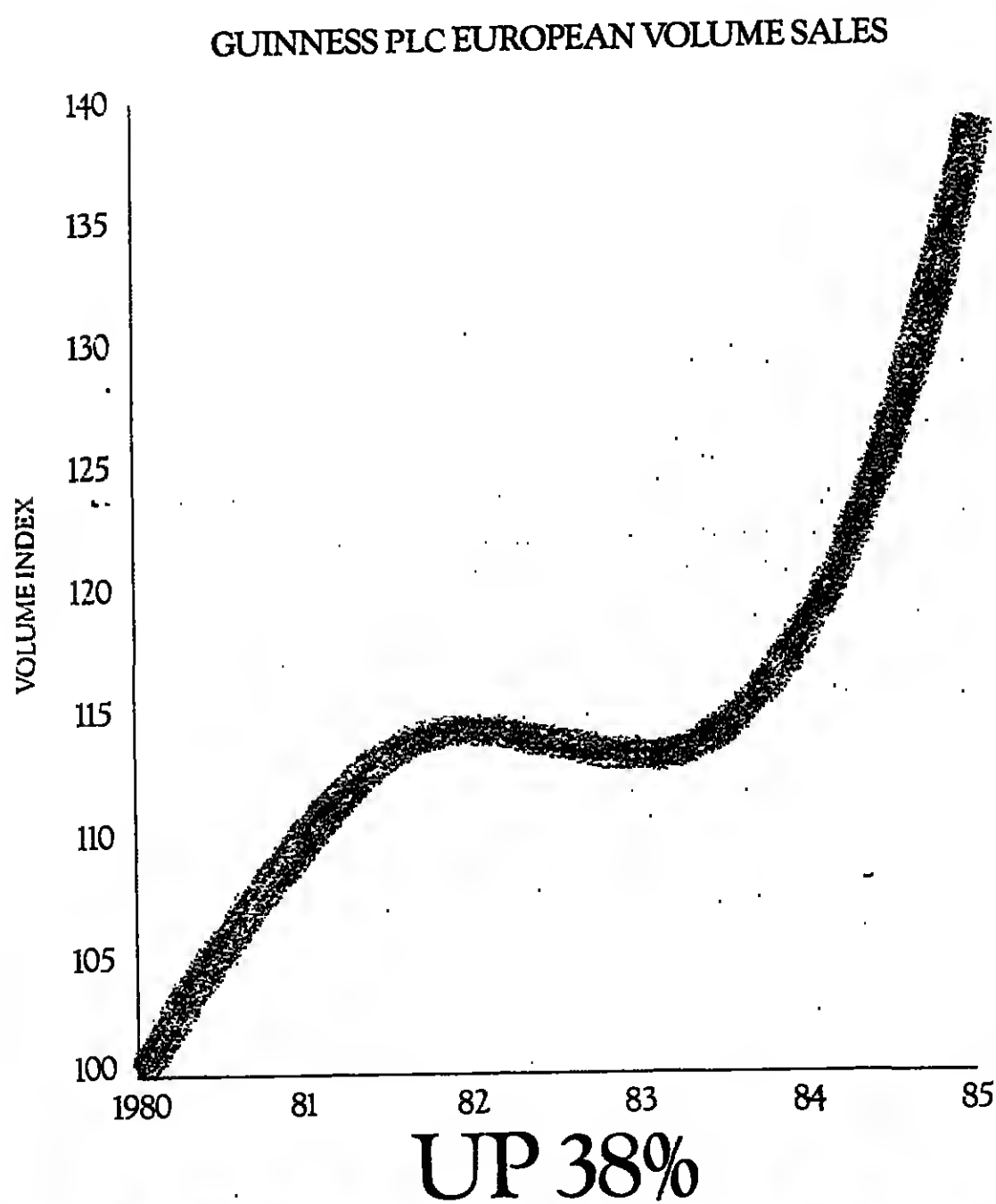
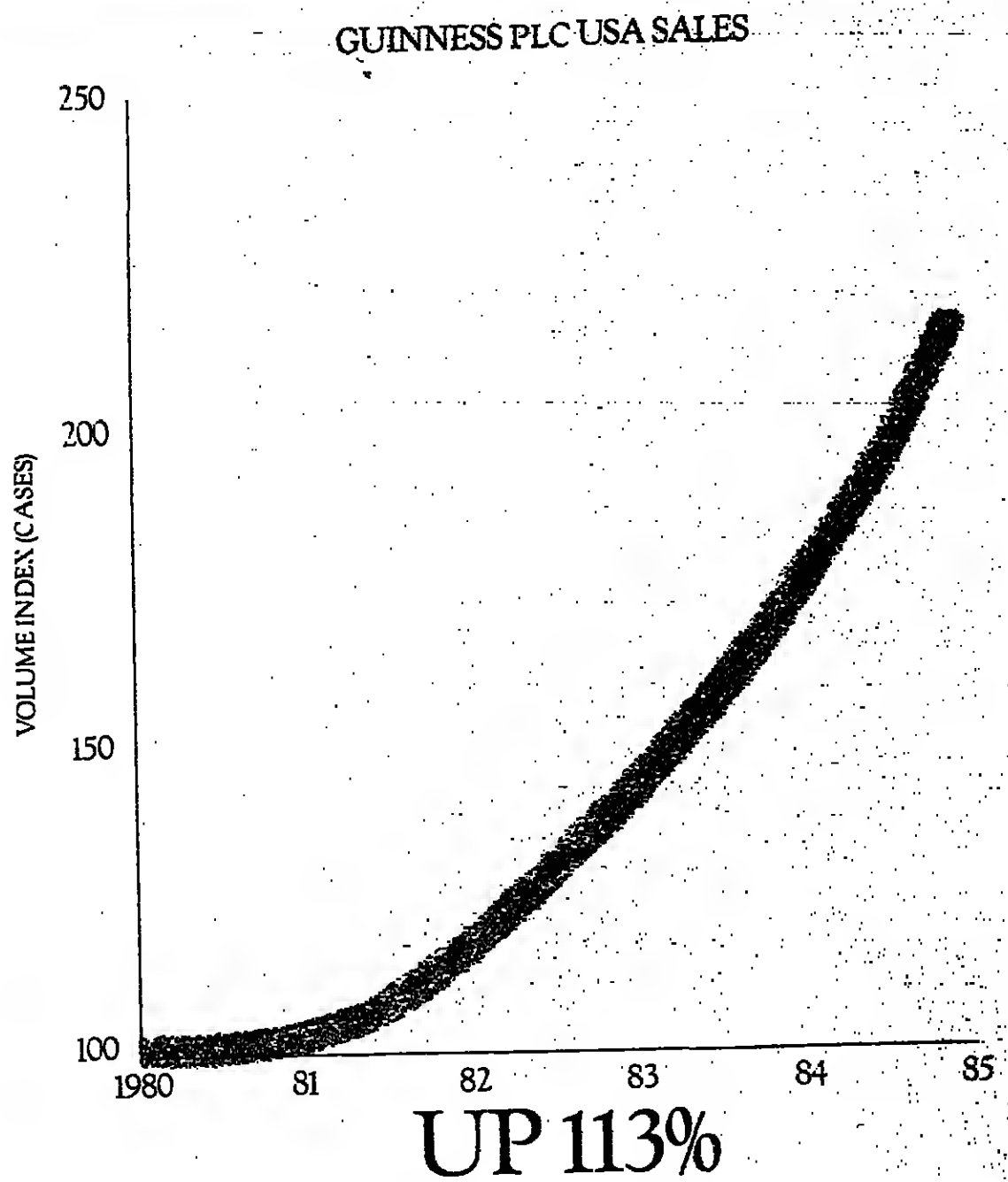
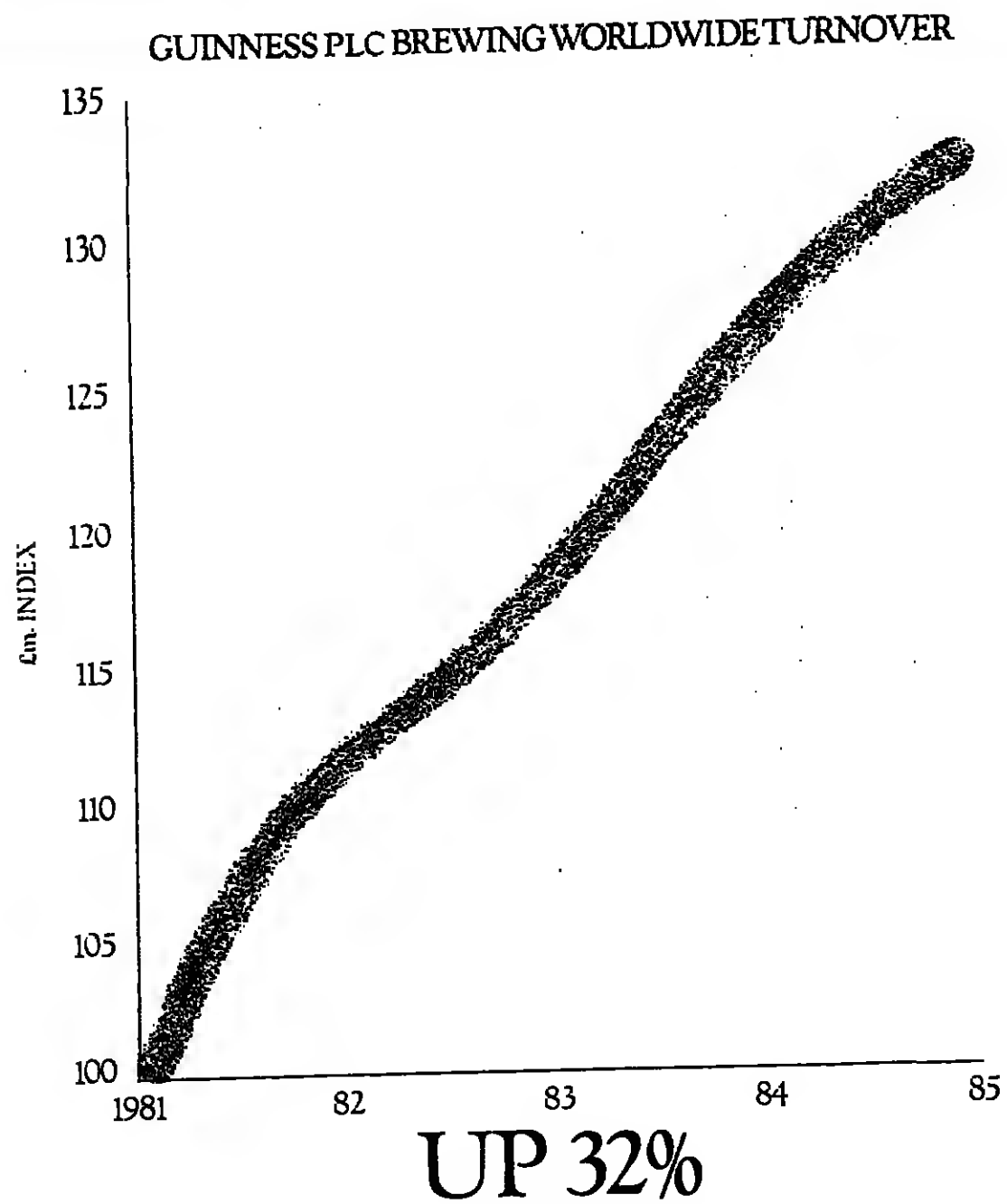
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Profit rise at Collins

William Collins increased its pretax profits to £13.1 million in the year to December 29 from £11.75 million in 1984. The company's British publishing divisions performed well and Glasgow operations made further progress. The final dividend is 5.375p, making 7.75p (6.5p).

Rowntree up

Rowntree Mackintosh made pretax profits last year of £79.3 million against £74.5 million. The dividend was raised 11 per cent to 12.2p. *Tempos, page 19*

Tax issue

The Chancellor's decisions on income tax in the Budget risk becoming submerged in the wider issue of longer-term tax reform. *Page 20*

Video return

Anstrud Consumer Electronics is returning to the video cassette recorder market with an infra-red remote control VCR at £299. The average VCR shop price is about £400.

News chief

Mr Ian Hay Davison, former chief executive of Lloyd's insurance market, is to become a non-executive director of Newspaper Publishing, which is launching the new daily newspaper, *The Independent*, in October. Also joining as a non-executive director is Mr George Duncan, chairman of Lloyds Bowmaker Finance.

Victoria buy

The Allied-Lyons subsidiary, Victoria Wine Company, is paying £23.5 million cash to buy the properties and assets of the D and A Haddow office division from Stakis.

Pay subsidy

The Nissan Motor Company of Japan will cut the pay of 49 executives by 10 per cent to cope with losses caused by the yen's sharp rise against the dollar.

Leeds launch

The Leeds Permanent Building Society has launched a £200 million Eurosterling floating rate note issue at par under the lead management of Baring Brothers. The interest rate for the first interest period from April 14 to June 16, has been pre-fixed at 12 1/16 per cent.

Shares deal

An unconditional offer by Morgan Nicoll to acquire Norton Villiers Triumph has been accepted for 76.7 per cent of shares and will be kept open until April 5.

Campari offer

A formal document has been sent to shareholders containing the offer on behalf of Mr A Nordin to acquire all 49p per share in cash the shares of Campari International not owned by him or his family trust.

Correction

John Karslake works on the options desk at Sheppards and Chase, the stockbrokers, and not Phillips & Drew as was stated in yesterday's *Times*.

BT turns in record profit but growth in calls slows

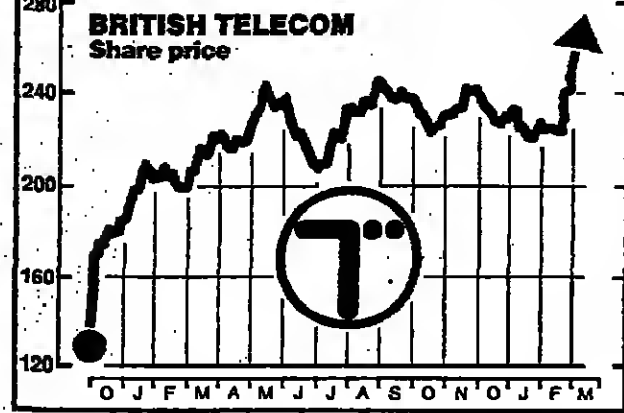
By Teresa Poole

British Telecom yesterday announced record pretax profits of £1,333 million for the nine months to December but said that the growth in telephone calls had fallen below internal budgets.

The results, an increase from £1,070 million, failed to impress the market and the shares closed 14p down on the day at 218p. Third quarter pretax profits moved ahead from £386 million to £448 million.

The growth in the volume of inland calls during the third quarter was just 6 per cent, compared with a very strong quarter last year when the company was benefiting from publicity surrounding privatisation.

This is the third consecutive fall in growth rate and is down from 8 per cent in the first quarter. International call volume moved ahead by 10 per cent, compared with 12 per cent for the nine month period as a whole. Telecom blamed the falling oil price for a reduction in telecommunications traffic



from oil-producing and refining nations, particularly the Middle East and Singapore. The finance director, Mr Doug Perryman, said that with telephone income running lower than expected, the level of expenditure had also been cut back but would be close to £2 billion for the full year. Expenditure in the nine months on digital exchange equipment was £259 million out of total capital expenditure of £1,373 million, up from £1,362 million. But by the end of this financial year the number of lines connected to local digital System X exchanges will be "nowhere near" the 1.8 million forecast a year ago.

Telecom's 1.6 million shareholders must pay the final 40p instalment on their shares by April 9. The share price will be quoted on a fully paid basis from April 1 and shareholders who want to sell

without making the payment have until March 27.

If allowance is made for the changed capital structure of the company which took effect in August 1984, profits for the nine-month period were 20 per cent ahead on turnover 10 per cent higher at £6,160 million.

Total operating costs increased by 9 per cent to £4,624 million, including a 5.8 per cent increase in the salaries bill. In the drive to increase efficiency, 2,000 jobs were lost in the third quarter, making 3,000 since the beginning of the financial year.

About £74 million of the third quarter's £2,111 million revenue came from the last two price rises and in the light of the company's record results, the Telecom Users Association yesterday called for prices to be reduced.

Mr Perryman denied that increased charges accounted for the fall in volume growth and pointed to a 3.7 per cent increase in the number of customer telephone lines over the past year to just over 21 million.

Jaguar 40% US-owned

By Cliff Feltham

Forty per cent of Jaguar shares are now held in the United States, spread among 6,000 investors, none of whom have more than 5 per cent, Mr John Egan, chairman of Jaguar, said yesterday.

But he pointed out that there was no evidence to support suggestions that General Motors had built up a 15 per cent stake in the company. Mr Egan, commenting on reports that the GM had been acquiring shares in Jaguar through nominees, said: "It would be most discourteous for them to have done so. They are a fine company, and I would not expect them to operate in the dark."

Jaguar is bid-proof until the Government's controlling "golden share" expires in 1990, but Mr Egan said that in the meantime he could not

ensure the ownership pattern of the former BL company. "If in London we are seen as a Midlands metal basher on a price earnings of eight and in the United States as a luxury car maker with a PE of 12 then shares will transfer from one market to the other."

The Jaguar profits for 1985 of £121 million, up 33 per cent, announced yesterday, were a shade below some stock market expectations but the shares still rose 15p to 470p.

Mr Egan said that worldwide sales had increased by 15 per cent to 37,952, with purchases of the XJ-S sports car rising by 28 per cent. Record sales were achieved throughout Europe while in the US, Jaguar's biggest market, sales rose by 10 per cent to 20,130, with demand exceeding sup-

ply and the waiting list beginning to lengthen slightly.

In Britain the steady growth of the past few years continued with sales of more than 8,000, the highest since 1978.

Mr Egan hedged on when the long-awaited XJ40 model would be introduced, indicating that it would be later this year or next with most followers betting on an autumn launch.

But he said that the increase of between £10 million and £20 million in costs arising from the launch and build-up of stocks would lead to a "flat year" afterwards.

Jaguar was now on the verge of stepping up production to 1,000 cars a week for the first time.

£3 billion profit for Shell

By David Young Energy Correspondent

Mr Peter Holmes, the chairman of Shell, which yesterday announced profits of £3 billion for last year, said that world oil prices would remain volatile even if the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries reached a new agreement in Geneva next week.

"Unless Opec comes up with some workable constraints, the downward pressure on prices would be expected to continue," he said. Despite the ups and downs, "Opec will survive", he added.

Mr Peter Holmes also said that Opec had miscalculated

when it thought that by driving down oil prices it would force Britain to cooperate in production restraint because many North Sea fields would become unprofitable at present prices of around \$14 a barrel.

Shell is reviewing its North Sea exploration programme but no projects have been shelved. Mr Holmes said that Opec attempts to involve non-Opec oil producers such as Britain and Norway in production restraint had failed.

The Shell chairman added that he did not expect any agreement between Opec and non-Opec oil producers to restrain output.

Shell's profits of £3,032 million against £3,648 million in 1984 are in line with City expectations. The figures reveal that the company wrote off £100 million at the end of the year in the value of oil stocks held, and £350 million for restructuring of refining operations in France and in Curacao.

It also lost £396 million on foreign exchange operations because of the fall in the value of the dollar. *Tempos, page 19*

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It also lost £396 million on foreign exchange operations because of the fall in the value of the dollar. *Tempos, page 19*

Haslemere steps up bid battle

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

Haslemere Estates is intensifying its fight to stop Rodamco Property, part of the Dutch investment management group Robeco, taking over the company.

It is launching an advertisement campaign in Holland's leading newspapers telling Rodamco shareholders that their company's dawn raid is "not cricket".

Haslemere says that such tactics would not be allowed on Rodamco's home ground and that contested takeover bids are unheard of in Europe.

The gentlemanly attitude which has prevailed until now in the contested £179 million bid is set to change as Haslemere toughens its stance. The property company has called in another public relations company, Streets Financial, to help Broad Street Associates in its counter offensive.

Haslemere's main defence rests on its recent property portfolio revaluation which resulted in a net asset value of 728p per share. Rodamco is offering 600p per share in cash for the 76 per cent of Haslemere it does not already own.

It has extended its offer until April 1 and so far has not increased its price, but it may do so after April 1.

Haslemere's shares have been trading at about 630p and the Dutch predator could well raise its offer to match that price.

£21m buyout bid for Raybeck

By Our City Staff

A group of senior managers at Raybeck, the lossmaking manufacturer of Berkertex bridal and women's wear, yesterday launched a true management buyout offer, worth £21.6 million, which - if successful - will lead to the resignation of the board.

More than 10 employees, including five principal managers, are making the offer through a newly-formed unquoted company, Legibus 687, with the financial backing of several financial institutions including Candover Investments, Globe Investment Trust and Electra Investment Trust.

The four main board directors of Raybeck, who speak for 8.9 per cent of the shares, have agreed to leave the company if the buyout is successful, and they are recommending the offer.

This is believed to be the first time a management buyout has been mounted for

a quoted company without the participation of the directors. Raybeck, which formerly owned Bourne & Hollingsworth, the London department store, last year sold its lossmaking Lord John, Werff Brothers and Best Sellers retail businesses for £12.25 million. Since the sale the company has traded profitably, but for the year to January 25 is expected to show a loss.

The terms of the offer, which is being carried out through a scheme of arrangement, are 477p in cash for every 10 ordinary shares and 115p for each preference share. The shares yesterday closed 1.5p higher at 45.5p, up from 39p last week before the announcement of an imminent bid.

If the buyout succeeds, the chairman of Legibus will be Mr Trevor Morgan, the former chairman of Timponis and a former director of Next.

Sedgwick up £16.3m

Sedgwick Group has declared a final dividend of 7.75p for the year to December 31, with profits after tax up to £86.1 million from 269.7 million.

Revenue was up to £581.5 million (£456 million), operating profit to £131.6 million (£96 million), and pretax profit to £124.3 million (£96.3 million).

The group has completed the divestment of its remain-

ing Lloyd's managing agency interests which produced an extraordinary income of £7.1 million.

Continued contraction of merchant shipping during the year hit the company's marine businesses and certain activities in Singapore and Hong Kong. In Australia, the progressive transfer of workers' compensation insurance to the public sector has necessitated efforts to develop and extend other areas of interest.

Shortage of skilled workers poses threat to output

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Industry leaders gave warning today of the consequences of the growing shortage of skilled workers and said that one in seven manufacturing companies believed their production would suffer.

In a survey published jointly by the Confederation of British Industry and the Manpower Services Commission, the worst shortage to emerge is of professional engineers.

But more than a fifth of firms said that further shortages were likely to emerge in the next 12 months, with computer and management services experts hard to find.

Eight per cent of firms said labour shortages would restrict their investment plans during the next year, compared with only 6 per cent in a similar survey conducted in December 1984.

Mr Bryan Nicholson, the chairman of the MSC, said too many companies still took the easy way out and preferred to poach experienced skilled people from other firms rather than train their own.

The survey, covering 1,284 employers, shows that 38 per cent of those reporting shortages of skilled engineers said they expected the situation to worsen. Seventy one per cent said they had been short of

engineers for more than 12 months. Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI director general, said: "Industry is alive to the fact that its output is being constrained by shortages of key skills, and is making major efforts to rectify this through improved education and training."

More than £24 million had been put up by more than 200 companies through the Information Technology Skills Agency to help to overcome skill shortages, with the money going to universities, polytechnics and other institutions to increase the output of graduate engineers and technologists.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Rank prefers physics to chemistry

If there were any lingering doubts that the Rank Organisation is under new management, they would have been dispelled yesterday. Rank's instant response to the Court ruling that the Independent Broadcasting Authority had acted within its powers in vetoing Rank's bid for Granada Group was two-fold: it would appeal against Mr. Justice Mann's ruling and it would press ahead with its bid. Michael Gifford, Rank's chief executive, and his chairman, Sir Patrick Meaney, are on a high and in a mood to leap rivers.

The IBA had declared on February 25 that it would not permit Rank to vote more than five per cent of Granada's shares. According to Granada's articles of association, only "an approved person" can vote more than five per cent, and the seal of approval has to be given by the IBA. The authority is clearly entitled to determine whether an independent television programme franchise, in this instance the franchise held by Granada Television for the north-west of England, can be sold (Thames to Carlton) or acquired by taking over the parent company. Rank is barking up the wrong legal tree.

But if Rank is determined to buy Granada, even if the prize came without the TV franchise, it is right to continue with its bid. The offer made last month was five Rank for nkne Granada shares, with a cash alternative of 275p per Granada share. At last night's close the paper offer was worth 295p and Granada stood at 270p. A determined Granada board might not have too much difficulty in resisting these terms but a significantly higher Rank bid would make Granada shareholders, as well as the Granada board, stop and think. Having to consider the way shareholders might vote is an entirely new experience for the Granada board: before 1984 an undemocratic voting structure gave effective control of the company to the Bernstein family.

Price however, is only one of two major determinants of a successful takeover bid: the other is chemistry. Here Rank may be in danger of falling down - always a risk with gung-ho bidders. The important elements in Granada are Alex Benstein, son of the last Cecil, his uncle, the admirable, civilised Sidney (Lord Bernstein), and Sir Denis Forman - in particular Alex. He is deeply conscious of the Granada inheritance and acutely aware of Sidney's brooding presence. He has Sidney's stubbornness, but not his flair, and his father's rather shy modesty. His integrity is unquestionable but his powers of leadership are not strong. He has an abiding interest in art and he is obviously rich. Others like him might be tempted to take a boardroom back seat and time to develop other interests. That is not his inclination.

There are two critical factors about Granada Group's performance, past and future. In its three main businesses - television, television rental and motorway services - it grown successfully, through internal endeavour and through acquisition. When it has strayed into other areas, it has cut a poor figure. The second point is that merely by continuing to cultivate the existing businesses, Granada is firmly on course to generating cash flows toward and beyond the £200 million mark within three years. It would therefore make a great deal of sense to meld Granada with a similar group where its resources could be put to good use. That appears to be Alex Bernstein's strategic thinking; but part of his thinking is that he should be the head. The link with Ladbroke seemed a strategic fit, though it too would probably have fallen fall of the IBA. It went no further than first base because Cyril Stein is not a man to hand over the top spot, however promising the synergy might have looked to them both.

Rank might budge on its way to victory with cash and paper but it might not be too late for Sir Pat and Mr Gifford to think more about the chemistry.

A tin gong for the LME

The London Metal Exchange was its best this week when with speed and efficiency it brought the extraordinary tin crisis to a conclusion. At times during the four and a half months the affair dragged on the exchange had seemed out of its depth. The courtly arts of lobbying governments and international organisations were largely foreign to the LME and the Byzantine complexities of the International Tin Council were quite impenetrable. But when the TinCo plan finally and abruptly collapsed and the buck was passed to the market to find a solution it was in its element.

No other market in the world could have organised with comparatively so little fuss the exchange in two dismal hours of cheques worth £150 million, all drawn on the resources of members. In one fell swoop the LME settled securely the positions between members and between members and their clients and departed tin trading, possibly for ever. London's status as the major world metal dealing centre was reasserted with such authority that brokers yesterday were already reporting a sharp increase in business.

But the solution has raised new questions. What happens to the ITC? Are there other international bodies ostensibly guaranteed by governments whose debts may be equally insecure? And where does the LME go from here?

Much is now in the hands of the lawyers, for whom it promises to be an unprecedented international bonanza. It will be a very important case or series of cases. The future of the ITC and of analogous bodies could well be determined by the outcome of

cases which will almost certainly take years. The core of the argument is whether sovereign immunity can cover commercial contracts which include, for example, agreement that disputes should be put to arbitration under the rules of the LME.

Many of those who have lost a great deal of money from the default of 22 countries, including Britain, may not wait that long, however. The banks have said that they will make borrowing on the Euromarket difficult for the errant ITC members, and international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund might look closely these countries' requirements.

Banks are more sanguine about the demonstration effect on international lending generally. The odd legal position of the ITC - answerable mainly in no court at all - is not replicated by loan agreements with, say, Brazil or Nigeria. Besides, these countries decided early on in the debt crisis that it was more prudent in the long run to play the game.

It is the LME which will continue to bear the brunt, despite the resourceful resolution of the debts for 25,000 tonnes of tin between members. Everybody on the exchange expects to see ring dealing seats vacated over the coming months. The departure of Philip & Lion, while not directly caused by the tin crisis, shows how dangerous metal futures trading has become for all save the financially powerful. On Thursday, even as self-congratulation was in the air, the LME admitted for the first time that substantial changes may be needed to satisfy the Securities and Investments Board.

The Ashdown Investment Trust PLC

The Annual General Meeting was held at 36 Old Jewry, London EC2 on Wednesday, 12th March, 1986.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 30th November, 1985.

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1985, 1984. Rows include Total Revenue (£1,897,173 vs £1,698,818), Revenue after taxation and expenses (£1,042,528 vs £ 946,095), Earnings per Ordinary Share (3.17p vs 2.88p), Ordinary dividends for the year net per share (3.10p vs 2.73p), Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share (167.2p vs 153.0p).

Schroders

Managed by Schroder Investment Management Limited

The Company aims primarily to achieve long-term capital growth while maintaining a progressive dividend policy. Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, Schroder Investment Management Limited, 36 Old Jewry, London EC2R 8BS.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with multiple columns: STOCK MARKETS (New York, Dow Jones, Nikkei Dow, Hang Seng, Sydney, Frankfurt, Commerzbank), GOLD (London, AM, COMEX), MAIN PRICE CHANGES (Noble Ltd, Mollers, Appleby, WJ, Tyne Tees TV, Jaguar, LWT, Wm Collins A, Euclaypus Pup, Wellcome), FALLS (Industrial Fin, Ultramar, Woolworth, Bejam, Reed Int), CURRENCIES (London, DM, S, FF, Yen, ECU, SDR), INTEREST RATES (Bank Base, 3-month interbank, 3-month eligible bills, buying rate, US, Prime Rate, Federal Funds, 3-month Treasury Bills, 30-year bonds).

WALL STREET

New York (AP-DJ) - Share prices closed mixed yesterday in the second busiest session in New York Stock Exchange history. The Dow Jones industrial average, after jumping 43.10 points on Tuesday, rose another 18 points by midday before giving up all its gains to finish down 0.60 at 1,745.45.

The broader market fared better, however, as the S&P 500 index rose 0.85 to close at a second consecutive record at 232.54.

Virtually every other important market index closed at a record high for the second consecutive day as well, including the Dow Jones transportation, utility and composite averages; the NYSE composite index; the NASDAQ composite index; and the American Stock Exchange index.

Table with columns for various stock indices and individual stock prices. Includes sections for AMR, ASA, Alcoa, and various other companies.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, Dollar Spot Rates, and London Commodity Exchange prices for various goods like soybeans, coffee, and sugar.

COMMODITIES

Table showing prices for various commodities including metals (Copper, Silver, Gold), grains (Wheat, Corn), and other goods.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing Euro Money Deposits, Gold prices, and other financial metrics related to money markets.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing various Sterling rates for different currencies and regions.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table showing interest rates for Euro money deposits across different terms and currencies.

COFFEE

Table showing coffee prices for various grades and origins.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing prices for London financial futures, including three-month and six-month sterling rates.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table showing performance and prices for various investment trusts.

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Table showing prices for various commodities including metals, grains, and other goods.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table showing information for various unit trusts, including names and performance metrics.

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Table showing information for various unit trusts, including names and performance metrics.

Large table at the bottom of the page containing detailed information for numerous investment trusts, including names, managers, and performance data.

TEMPUS

You can be sure of Shell's pain ahead

Unless the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can agree a strategy which will reverse the oil price slide, oil company profits will go into reverse with a vengeance next year.

Even the mighty Royal Dutch/Shell group will feel the pain as lower oil and gas prices start to bite.

Oil and gas production makes up more than three-quarters of group earnings and this is where it will hurt, perhaps not as much as for some companies because of the cushion afforded by gas where prices on some contracts will not fall as fast as the oil price.

But with an oil price in sterling terms possibly not much more than half its 1985 level, the production figures will make gloomy reading.

As far as Shell is concerned, that is the end of the bad news. The evidence for this is contained in yesterday's statement of its results.

Write-offs of nearly £200 million against downstream profits cannot disguise the fact that this segment has become very profitable indeed because of mounting feedstocks costs. Excluding stock losses and write-offs in both years, it appears that the refining end of the business nearly doubled its profits in 1985 compared with 1984.

In 1986, this segment will continue to do well because consumer price reductions for petrol and home heating oil are lagging behind the fall in oil prices.

There is no evidence of a price war developing at the petrol pump, despite the low spot prices. Unstable prices make for caution among buyers for cut-price pumps. They do not want to be caught holding stock while prices fall further.

Overcapacity in the industry means that it will be only a matter of time before margins are squeezed back to a more realistic level. In the meantime, refiners are grabbing every opportunity to make up for years of losses and inadequate margins endured while the sterling oil price was going up.

Despite a fall in reported net income for 1985 of 17 per cent, the Shell dividend was increased by 6.1 per cent to 35 pence for the year. Shell's dependence on the upstream will make lower profits inevitable next year too.

The group has been criticised in the past for being mean to its shareholders. Now that earnings are beginning a period of decline, the dividend is unlikely to come

under threat as it amounts to only 34 per cent of earnings per share.

Offering a gross yield of 6.6 per cent, it is not the highest yielding stock in the oil patch, but with £4.8 billion of cash and a long-term debt ratio of 18 per cent, it must be the safest.

British Telecom

British Telecom's share price performance relative to the market suggests that investors may have been re-assessing just how much of a glamour rating the company deserves.

Since the October peak, the price has underperformed the FT-500 by about 12 per cent.

The market gave yesterday's nine months results to December 1985 a raspberry and the price fell 12 pence to 218 pence. A 16 per cent increase for the latest three months pretax profits looks positively modest compared with the sort of increases some companies are reporting.

The figures are rather better than they appear to be at first sight. They include a charge of £27 million for a currency loss on dollar denominated debt relating to BT's satellites. If this is excluded, the pretax profit rise is a much more creditable 23 per cent.

The increasing profits come from three main sources. Telephone calls increased by 10 per cent for international calls and 6 per cent for inland calls in the quarter. Cost cutting continues to be a feature and staff cuts in Britain were 2,000 in the quarter. Staff cuts arising from natural wastage are running at an annual rate of 5,000, or 2 per cent of the labour force, and this rate of decline is expected to continue. The quarter also gained from the November 1 price increases.

The market clearly expects the rise in inland calls to be greater - possibly closer to 8 per cent, the increase reported in the first quarter. The company insists that the lower-than-expected rise was due to an abnormally high level of calls in the corresponding quarter of last year.

A steady rate of growth of call traffic looks likely as the younger generation is very telephone conscious, as parents will know to their cost. With cost cutting and price increases to work through to profits, the outlook for the next two years looks positive. BT is no longer a monopo-

ly however. On May 1, Mercury will be offering a switched telephone service in competition with BT.

Expanding into new areas of business such as the manufacture of PBX machines (via Mitel) and electronic mail in the US (via the proposed acquisition of the ITT subsidiary Dialcom) is a key plank in BT's strategy to meet the challenge of competition. Nevertheless, some margin erosion looks inevitable.

Rowntree Mackintosh

The British sweet tooth helped boost Rowntree Mackintosh's sales of KitKat in Britain to a record 5 million eaten each day and its 1985 pretax profits to £79.3 million, a rise of 6.4 per cent.

Performance across the group was uneven, with British trading profits up by 16.5 per cent and North American profits up by 18 per cent. But European profits were down by 27.7 per cent and the rest of the world lower by 22.5 per cent.

The European problems of lack of critical mass are not new and are unlikely to be overcome quickly. There was, however, some improvement in the second half. The export market was also hurt by declining spending power in the oil producing countries. The Middle East takes some 60 per cent of Rowntree's exports.

Britain performed well, despite a marginal loss of market share in the confectionery division, and the United States specialty retail food shops rose above fiercely competitive conditions leaving the worst excesses of the cookie war to the leading packaged biscuit makers.

Steady progress is expected to continue this year. Next month sees the launch of Novo, Rowntree's new chocolate and moustache bar.

Other developments could include a sizeable American acquisition and, more speculatively, the purchase of Golden Wonder. Pretax profits for the current year are expected in the £85 million to £87 million range, a respectable 7 to 10 per cent increase. The shares, which rose 11p to 456p yesterday, have benefited of late from the speculative fallout from the United Biscuits/Imperial bid. They have risen 60p since the start of the year. They should continue to perform at least as well as the market.

COMPANY NEWS

● **CEMENT-ROADSTONE HOLDINGS:** Sales for 1985, Irish £529.77 million (Irish £476.25 million). Pretax profit reached a record £27.55 million (£20.06 million). Earnings per share 9.33p (8.11p).

● **BEJAM GROUP:** Interim dividend 2p (1.75p) for the half-year to Dec. 31, 1985, payable on May 2. Turnover £186.39 million (£172.46 million). Pretax profit £9.12 million (£9.36 million). An investment gain of about £4.25 million, less tax, will be dealt with in the full-year's results.

● **HAMPDEN HOMECARE:** Results for 1985, compared with the previous 12 weeks. Final dividend 0.5p, turnover £13.63 million (£12.9 million). Profit before tax £737,000 (£460,000).

● **LAWTEX:** Interim dividend 1p (0.75p adjusted), payable on April 4, for the half-year to Dec. 28, 1985. The board intends to pay a final dividend of 1p (£10 million). Pretax profit £241,000 (£234,000). Earnings per share 5.6p (5.5p adjusted).

● **LIDLAW GROUP:** The company is in talks for the sale of its assets and business of Laidlaw (Dunfermline) to Ford Motor. The price will be about the asset value, which is about 7 per cent of group gross assets.

● **LIBERTY LIFE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA:** Net premium income for 1985 R686.9 million (£239 million), against R510.3 million. Total income R1,064.1 million (£786 million). Total dividend 300 cents (250 cents).

● **DAVY CORPORATION:** The company has now received \$40.4 million (£27.5 million) in cash from the US pension scheme surplus, referred to in the previous year's accounts.

● **COMMERCIAL BANK OF THE NEAR EAST:** Interest income for 1985 £10.24 million (£11.28 million). Pretax profit £704,096 (£504,267). Dividend 30p a share.

● **UNITED COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY HOLDINGS:** The company is recommending acceptance of revised offers by Harvard Securities. Offers are extended until March 27.

● **WILH SONENSSON AB:** Dividend SKr 3.75 (3.5). Figures for 1985. Operating profit SKr894 million (SKr603 million). Profit after financial items SKr518 million (SKr373 million). Profit before appropriations and tax SKr611 million (SKr401 million). Earnings per share SKr 9.2million (SKr 9.95 million). The board believes Volvo's offer to shareholders is acceptable.

● **BPCA FINANCE:** The company is in talks for a \$150 million Eurodollar bond issue under the guarantee of British Petroleum. BPCA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of British Petroleum of Australia. The bonds will have a 12-year maturity (1998) carry an annual coupon of 8.88 per cent and an issue price of 100% per cent.

● **TOD:** Results for six months ended December 31. Interim dividend 1.3p (1.1). Figures in £000. Profit before tax 615. Earnings per share on increased capital 5.4p (4.2). Increased turnover and profit is partly because of the contribution of Westrick Plastics, acquired in September, 1985, and the results of which have been incorporated into July, 1985 on a merger basis. Prospects for the current year are promising.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares hold steady despite bouts of profit-taking

Dealers concentrated on a weller of trading statements yesterday as traders consolidated recent gains. The undertone held firm throughout despite sporadic bouts of profit-taking amid fears that the raging bull market was near its peak.

Government securities made a drab showing in late trading after the Chancellor appeared to dampen lower interest rate optimism in a Commons statement.

Quotations recorded falls of nearly ¼ of a point. Among equities, satisfactory results from Jaguar and Shell provided fresh food for the optimists, but a 16 per cent increase in NatWest led the field at 784p up 42p while Lloyds finished 30p higher at 570p.

On the bid front, Granada 'A' plunged 28p as Rank Organisation lost its application for a judicial review of the IBA declaration that a takeover of the company would be unacceptable. However, the shares later rallied to 272p, down 8p as Rank (down 5p to 532p) pledged to appeal and press ahead with the bid.

Television shares elsewhere were stimulated by good profits from Tyne Tees, up 12p to 185p. LWT Holdings reporting next Thursday rose 15p to 315p.

In mixed engineers, Guest Keen unchanged at 347p recovered an early 9p fall on profit-taking.

Automotive Products with

encouraging statement concerning tests on the anti-aids drug. The shares advanced to a peak of 215p before finishing at 206p, up 12p.

Boots attracted late demand helped by heavy activity in traded options. The shares recorded an 11p rise to 265p having been little changed for most of the session. Other stores were much quieter than of late with Woolworth at 579p, losing 10p of its recent speculative advance.

Banks returned to favour as two influential brokers, Merrill Lynch and Wood Mackenzie, upgraded their forecasts for the sector. NatWest led the field at 784p up 42p while Lloyds finished 30p higher at 570p.

Trust House Forte jumped 8p to 183p on reports that a substantial stake had changed hands and that a bid may be made by American Express.

Wordplex plummeted 9p to 48p when the company warned of heavy losses due to trading difficulties. CASE, in a similar business, lost 20p to 94p in sympathy but among other high-technology issues Micro Focus shares were an outstanding spot at 195p, up 35p. Astramad at 436p, up 2p, recovered an early fall on news of a new video recorder.

Allied-Lyons eased 3p to 305p on further reaction to the Elders stake sale. Provisions against tin trading losses snipped a penny from S & W Berisford at 197p. The share

price was supported by the takeover situation. However, Dalgely tumbled 17p to 248p after similar action.

Northern Foods dipped 12p to 260p after a profit downgrade by the stockbroker Scrimgeour. In contrast Rowntree shares were hoisted 11p to 456p after a better-than-expected 6.4 per cent profits increase.

Good results also stimulated W J Tod at 133p. William Collins 'A' 323p, Hawtal Whiting 450p and World of Leather 203p, all up between 10p and 15p. Newcomer Meivier-Swain at 139p made a bright debut with a 19p premium. Pacific Sales at 79p up 16p and Encalyptus Pulp 470p up 45p were supported ahead of results.

Dry cleaners returned to favour with Johnson Group 9p better at 420p. Expansion plans boosted Microgen at 365p, up 10p, and Raybeck hardened 15p to 45p on the management buyout plans.

Life insurances remained on offer on marketing worries but composites were brighter with Guardian Royal up 7p to 833p. In brokers, disappointing profits knocked 22p from Sedgwick at 396p but merchant banks were firm again with Kleinwort at 800p up 10p still reflecting recent good results.

In mixed properties fading bid hopes left MEPC another 8p down at 350p.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Abbott M V (180p)	220
Ashley (L) (135p)	233 dn 3
BPP (160p)	193 up 3
Brookmount (160p)	180
Chart FL (95p)	90
Chancery Secs (85p)	72
Cranwick M (95p)	107 up 1
Dialane (128p)	205
Ferguson (J) (10p)	28 up 1
Granite Surface (58p)	78 dn 1
Inoco (55p)	47 dn 2
JS Pathology (160p)	77 dn 2
Jarvis Porter (105p)	146 up 6
Kearfold (118p)	120 dn 3
Laxicon (115p)	120 dn 3
Macro 4 (105p)	136 dn 2
Merivala M (115p)	129 up 1
Norank Sys (90p)	122 up 11
Really Useful (330p)	358 dn 3
SAC Int (100p)	133 dn 1

SPP (125p)	158
Templeton (215p)	228
Sigmax (101p)	86
Snowdon & B (97p)	113 up 1
Spice (80p)	91 up 1
Tech Comp (130p)	212 dn 2
Underwoods (180p)	187 up 2
Wallcome (120p)	206 up 12
W York Hosp (90p)	78
Wicks (140p)	156 dn 2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cullens N/P	75
Hartwells N/P	75 up 15
MW Comp	104
Portar chad F/P	104
Safeway UK	£45 dn 1
Wates N/P	28 dn 1
Westland F/P	73

(Issue price in brackets).

THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 17th April, 1986 for the preparation of warrants for a Final Dividend for the year 1985 of 22.5p per 25p Ordinary Share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 15th May, 1986 the dividend will be paid on 22nd May, 1986.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 6DA, not later than 3.00 p.m. on 17th April, 1986.

SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER
The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 174 which must be left at Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issue Section, 111, Old Broad Street, London, EC2N 1AU, at least five clear days for examination, or may be surrendered through MM. Lazard, Freres, Paris.

By Order of the Board
D. W. CHESTERMAN
Company Secretary

Shell Centre,
London, SE1 7NA.
13th March, 1986

The 'priority' for jobs

Jobs for the long-term unemployed could be created at a cost of only £4,000 a year, according to Professor Richard Layard, head of the Centre for Labour Economics at the London School of Economics. In the second 1986 Stockton lecture, delivered yesterday evening at the London Business School, Professor Layard said that reducing long-term

unemployment should be the Government's "number one priority".

Professor Layard said that the Government should introduce a new financial incentive to companies to do more training. He said that the "tax on jobs" - employers' National Insurance contributions - should be cut for low-paid workers.

LEX BAR... KIT KAT ROLO TOFI... QUALITY STREET CA... SCOTSLAN REVE... DEN CUP TOOTY FROO... SYORKIE POLO ESC... GOTS DE BOURGOGNE... NAKS WHEAT CRUNCHIES BLACK MAGIC CARA MAC KIT KAT DOUBLE CEN... WALNUT WHIPS DRIFTER ROWNTREE'S JELLIES DAIRY BOX MINTOLA JAFFAS... TER BREAKAWAY ROWNTREE'S FRUIT PASTILLES AND FRUIT GUMS NIK NAKS W... KIT KAT MATCHMAKERS TOM'S GREAT AMERICAN SNACKS TOOTY FROOTIES BR... ICKLES MUNCHIES TOFFO LION BAR BLUE RIBAND SUNRISE BROS CADDY ECLIPSE C... ILA PAN YAN PICKLES DOUBLE CENTRE SUN PAT PETTIS CRACKS REVE NOIR ESCAR... HIES WEEK END CREAMOLA RILEY'S CRISPS SMARTIES WELSH PANTRY CRUNCHI... IAGIC FOX'S GLACIER MINT... CHOCO CROSSIES QUA... STREET YORKIE POLO BI... RAGE MURPHYS GOLDF... FOLKY NUTS AERO R... ANTALES WILSON ROLLS... MARTIES CHOCO CRO... LANVIN CARAMAC M... AAKERS DAIRY BOX GC... NUTCHOS LAURA SEC... TOFFEE CRISP WILSC... XX MINTS BAR ONE M... N ROLLS TEX COFFEE... ISP MINTIES JELLY TC... MINT IMPERIALS CHA... KIT KAT QUALITY STR... COFFEE CRISP MIRA... F FANTALES BIG TURK... 'S AFTER EIGHT AERO... MIRAGE TURTLES M... NCHIES YORKIE POL... ROLO LAURA SECOR... NUTCHOS PETTIS CRACKS DOUBLE CENT... TEK END TOM'S G... LITY STREET YO... E VIOLET CRUMBLE... WHEAT CRI... MERICAN SN... WILSONS XXX MINT... LOLO TO... NE MINT... AFTER EIGHT AERO... S DOUBLE CENTRE T... NIK NAKS WHEAT... CRUNCHIES SUNRISE... CARAMAC MATCHM...

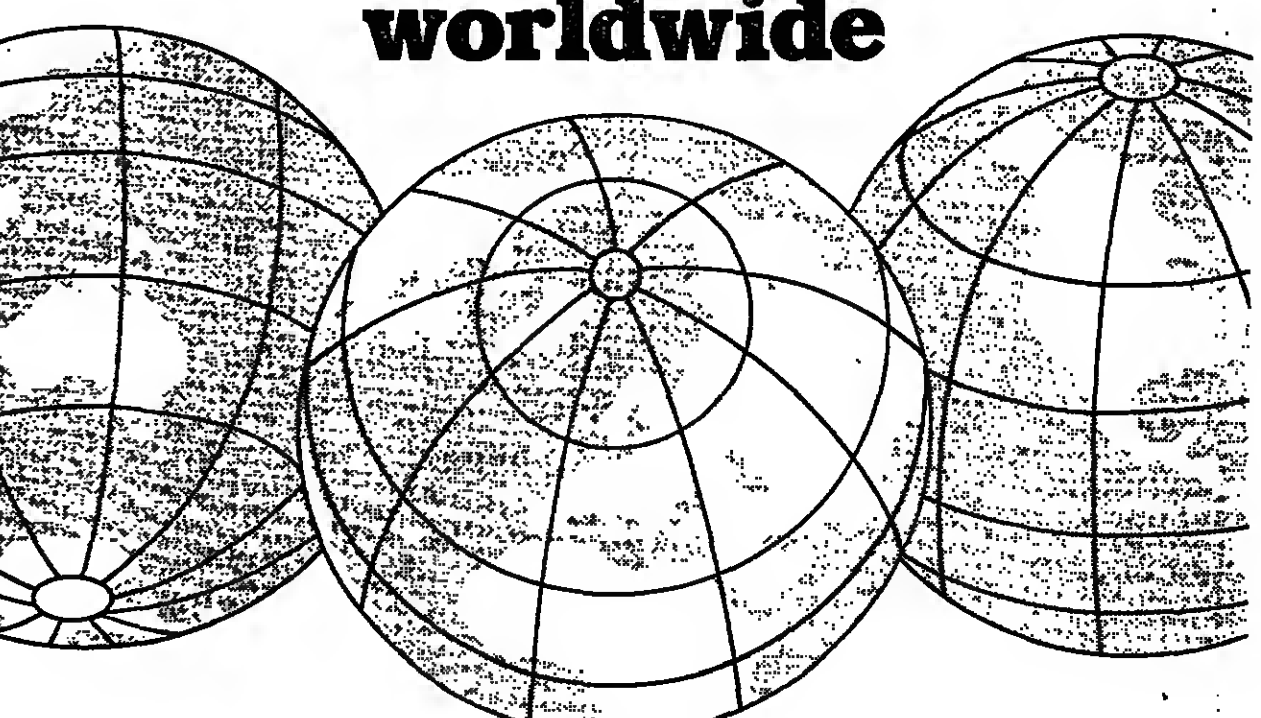
Profitable growth in the UK and North America

Results in Brief	1985 £m	1984 £m
Turnover	1205.2	1156.5
Trading profit	101.3	93.8
Interest	22.0	19.3
Profit before taxation	79.3	74.5
Taxation	18.6	16.5
Profit after taxation	60.7	58.0
Preference dividends	0.1	0.1
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders before extraordinary items	60.6	57.9
Earnings per ordinary share	36.0p	36.0p

- * 1985 pre-tax profits up 6%
- * Total dividend up 11%
- * UK trading profit up 16%
- * North American companies increased profits
- * Capital expenditure at a record £71.5 million
- * Trading margins up for fourth successive year
- * Commitment to growth by improved returns from existing businesses as well as appropriate acquisitions

Rowntree Mackintosh

Sedgwick the right skills worldwide



Year ended 31 December	1985	1984
Revenue	£581.5m	£456.0m
Profit before taxation	£124.3m	£96.3m
Earnings	£79.0m	£69.1m
Earnings per ordinary share	21.7p	19.1p
Dividend per ordinary share	11.0p	10.0p

The information above includes the results of the Fred. S. James Group for both years on a merged basis. The information is extracted from the full financial statements for the years ended 31 December 1984, as restated, and 1985. The full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1984 have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and the report thereon was unqualified. The full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1985 have not yet been reported upon by the auditors and have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Sedgwick Group

BUDGET BRIEFING

Beat 'why work?' syndrome with reduced tax rate band

The most contentious part of the Budget next Tuesday is likely to involve income tax, mainly because the Treasury will publish its long-term plans for tax reform. There are, however, some hard short-term decisions to be taken on income tax as David Smith, Economics Correspondent, explains.

The Chancellor's immediate decisions on income tax next Tuesday risk becoming submerged in the wider issue of longer-term reform, with the options to be outlined in a Budget day green paper.

But, irrespective of plans for the future, which have a habit of falling by the wayside, Mr Lawson is under pressure to do something on income tax now.

Although neither has come out and said it publicly, it is reasonable to take the view that until the winter collapse in oil prices both the Chancellor and the Prime Minister had ambitious plans for cutting the basic rate of income

tax, currently 30 per cent. When the Cabinet was meeting to discuss economic strategy before last November's autumn statement on the economy, the vision of income tax at 25 pence in the pound, for most a long-forgotten 1979 target, appeared before them.

With a fair wind and the privatization programme moving into top gear, it was argued, 2 pence off the basic rate in 1986 and a 3 pence reduction in 1987 was not out of the question.

Since then, of course, the skies have fallen in the oil market and, despite signs that prices have bottomed out, the Chancellor finds himself about £6 billion short on oil revenues in 1986/87.

He could still squeeze out a cut in the basic rate by bumping up excise duties substantially and foregoing other Budget measures. But, with the case for basic rate cuts still far from proven among the "real economy" wing of the Cabinet, notably the Secretary of State for Employment, Lord Young of Graffham, it is probably not worth the trouble. Every pen-

ny off the basic rate has a full-year cost of £1.2 billion.

The argument for pulling out all the stops to reduce the basic rate then rests on the longer-term plans. If the Chancellor hopes to introduce a system of transferable allowances towards the end of the decade it is better to do so when the basic rate is lower.

Even so, Mr Lawson will probably prefer to take his chances on cutting the basic rate in the 1987 and 1988 Budgets.

This leaves two main options to what is essentially a revenue reshuffling Budget. The first is to continue with the programme, pursued on and off since the 1980 Budget, of reducing income tax by increasing allowances and thresholds by more than the rate of inflation.

The second is to revert to an old idea, a reduced rate band of income tax for the lower paid. A reduced rate, of 25 pence in the pound, used to apply on the first £750 of taxable income. It was abolished by the present Government in the 1980 Budget.

The easiest, and least controversial thing to do would be to raise allowances and thresholds by more than the 5.7 per cent rise in the retail prices index in the 12 months to last December. The extra cost of raising all allowances and thresholds by 10 per cent rather than the required 5.7 per cent would be £800 million in 1986/87, or £1 billion in a full year.

There are two main objections to doing this. The first is that every time allowances are over-indexed between now and the eventual shift to



Lord Young: sceptical about basic rate tax

transferable allowances, the more expensive that shift will be. The second is that the Government's social security reforms, which admittedly will not affect 1986/87, remove some of the traditional virtues associated with raising allowances rather than cutting the basic rate.

When the reforms are in place, changes in income tax generally and thus allowances and thresholds will have much less effect on the poverty and employment traps, the former which can result in marginal tax rates of more than 100 per cent at the meeting of benefit and income tax, the latter which produces the familiar "Why Work" syndrome.

There is therefore, a good case this year for the return of the old reduced rate band. The reduced rate band, as it used to be presorted, was a tax

break directed specifically at the unemployed.

The trick now, particularly to avoid allegations of a U-turn because of its earlier abolition, is to present it as the first stage in the introduction of a 25 per cent rate to all basic rate taxpayers.

Introducing the reduced rate on the first £500 of taxable income costs about £600 million in a full year. A £1,000 reduced rate band costs about the same as a 1 pence in the pound cut in the basic rate. The final possibility is that the Chancellor will do nothing more than just raise allowances and thresholds in line with inflation. After all, with real incomes growing at 3 to 4 per cent this year, it is rather difficult to make the case, from the point of view of need, for income tax reductions.

Rank challenge to IBA ban fails

Regina v Independent Broadcasting Authority, Ex parte Rank Organization plc

Before Justice Mann [Judgment given March 13]

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, in deciding not to give permission to the Rank Organization plc to exercise voting rights in respect of shares constituting in excess of 5 per cent of the issued voting shares of Granada Group plc, was not exercising any function under section 20(5) of the Broadcasting Act 1981 but was exercising a power conferred by article 75 of the articles of association of Granada Group plc. The decision was therefore not susceptible of judicial review.

Mr Justice Mann so held, in a reserved judgment, dismissing an application by the Rank Organization plc for judicial review of the above decision of February 25 of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Section 20(5) of the Broadcasting Act 1981 provides: "Every contract concluded between the Authority and a programme contractor shall, where the programme contractor is a body corporate, contain all such provisions as the Authority think necessary or expedient to ensure that if any change in the nature or characteristics of the body corporate, or any change in the persons having control over or interests in the body corporate, takes place after the conclusion of the contract, which, if it had occurred before the conclusion of the contract, would have induced the Authority to refrain from entering into the contract, the Authority may by notice in writing require the programme contractor to take effect forthwith or on a date specified in the notice, to determine the contract."

Article 75A(1) of the articles of association provides: "No member shall be entitled to vote in excess of the number equal to 5 per cent of the total number of voting shares then in issue unless he is

an approved person and then only in accordance with the terms of the Authority's permission..."

Mr Ian Hunter, QC and Miss Mary Arden for the applicant; Mr Robert Alexander, QC, Mr Roger Buckley, QC and Mr Mark Howard for Granada; Mr David Kemp, QC and Mr Derrick Torriff for the IBA.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that central to the applicant's submission of illegality was the allegation that the IBA had failed to give consideration to section 20(5).

If the IBA was exercising its function under the statute then the exercise would be reviewable under public law. In his Lordship's judgment, on February 25 the IBA was not exercising any powers under section 20(5). It was exercising power conferred by article 75 of the articles of association.

There was no suggestion that article 75 was ultra vires of Granada or exceeded the powers of the IBA.

Was the article of association susceptible of judicial review on the application of shareholders? The answer must be "no".

Na authorities had been referred to nor was there any argument why Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court should avail. In those circumstances the remedies of public law were not available.

Had the matter been justiciable, Rank would have had a sufficient interest to give it *locus standi*, but the decision could not have been flawed on the ground of mechanical application of policy. The IBA was entitled to have a policy.

Rank did not have a legitimate expectation to be heard, nor was there any unfairness in not granting Rank the opportunity to put its case. There was only a duty to act bona fide and to listen to the representations which were made in good faith.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Freshfields; Allen & Overly.

Concern in court over worthless insurance

Diabhar v A & B Painters Ltd Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord George Waller [Judgment given March 4]

Where insurers had repudiated an insurance policy by reason of misrepresentation by the brokers, but would in any event have been entitled to avoid liability to the insured, the court, on the insured's claim against the brokers for damages for loss of his indemnity under the policy, should not decide on the balance of probabilities whether the insurers would have avoided liability, but should assess the chance that they would have done so and reduce the insured's damages accordingly.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the second third party, Whitehouse & Co, insurance brokers, from an order of Mr M. J. Pratt, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, of February 1985, that, in indemnifying the defendant insured, A & B Painters Ltd, in respect of its liability to pay the plaintiff, Mr Alfred James Dunbar, £125,000 damages in respect of injuries sustained when he had fallen over 90 feet in the course of his employment with the defendant.

Having discovered the brokers' misrepresentation, the insurers had repudiated all liability under the defendant employers' liability insurance; had they not done so they would in any event have been entitled to refuse to pay since the plaintiff had fallen from a height in excess of 90 feet.

Mr John Griffiths, QC and Mr Peter Fox for the brokers; Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Mr Richard Craven for the defendant; Mr Adrian Cooper for the insurers.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that it was clear from *Mallett v Macdonald* (1970) AC 166, 176 and *Fraser v B N Furman (Productions) Ltd* (1967) 1 WLR 898, 904 that the correct approach was to judge, at the time of the hearing, the chance that the insurers would have taken the height point.

Having done so and concluded that it was unthinkable that they would have taken it, he had assessed the chance as nil, and the insurers were entitled to the Court of Appeal could interfere with that finding.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE, concurring, said that he shared the deep concern which the trial judge had expressed at the time of his judgment that this employers' liability insurance policy, which appeared to drive a coach and horses through the provisions for compulsory insurance in the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) General Regulations (SI 1971 No 1117) which required the certificate of insurance to be displayed by the insured so that employees could inspect it, had been issued and displayed; it had appeared to protect the employees, and it was difficult to see how the plaintiff or any of his workmates could ever have found out that it was worthless. They had been entitled to assume that they were covered, and in the circumstances the certificate had been a snare and a delusion.

Moreover, there had been no reference in the certificate, which had purported to satisfy the requirements of the law, to the height restriction, that persons working above 40 feet were not covered.

The case had drawn attention to an unsatisfactory state of affairs, which was a matter for the legislature to deal with. Sir George Waller agreed. Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co for Hay & Kilner, Newcastle upon Tyne; Stephenson Harwood for McKean & Co, Newcastle upon Tyne; Lawrence Graham.

Breach of the peace summons is a criminal matter

Regina v Bolton Justices, Ex parte Graeme

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson [Judgment given March 3]

The Court of Appeal did not have jurisdiction to consider a renewed application for leave to apply for judicial review of the decision of a summons to the breach of the peace under section 115 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, because section 181(1)(a) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 deprived the court of jurisdiction to hear appeals in "any criminal cause or matter".

That was the opinion expressed by Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, after the court had dismissed, by reason of the non-appearance of the applicant, a renewed application for leave to apply for judicial review of the decision of a summons to the breach of the peace under section 115 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, which was a criminal cause or matter.

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MR JOHN LAWS as amicus curiae.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the applicant faced two obstacles.

First, section 181(1)(a), although concerned with the court of appeal, had the effect of depriving the court of its original jurisdiction, which included the hearing of renewed applications for leave to apply for judicial review such as the present one.

It would be very peculiar if the Court of Appeal were to exercise its original jurisdiction to grant leave for judicial review in circumstances in which any consequent decision would be appealable to the court.

Second, an application for judicial review, relating to a

complaint under section 115 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 was a "criminal cause or matter" within the meaning of section 18 of the 1981 Act.

Obviously it remained open to someone to argue the point in the future. But it might help if in the light of the present case his Lordship observed that he had very little doubt that this was a criminal cause or matter.

A number of reasons had been evolved by Mr Laws, but it was enough to mention just three:

1 The wording of section 115 of the 1980 Act included, in subsection (3), an express power of imprisonment if someone was not prepared to enter into a recognisance to keep the peace. There was no suggestion that that was a contempt jurisdiction of anything of that sort.

2 Section 115 was very similar to the provisions of the ancient statute of Edward III, the Justices of the Peace Act 1361, from which it was quite clear that the jurisdiction to bind over was integral to justices' general duty to ensure the maintenance of peace, which was normally thought of as a criminal jurisdiction.

3 Section 1(7) of the Justices of the Peace Act 1956 declared that any order of the justices having a criminal jurisdiction had an ancillary power to bind over to keep the peace.

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitor: Treasury Solicitor.

Correction

In *Community Task Force v Rimmer* (The Times March 13), the solicitors for Community Task Force were Radcliffe & Co, not Peter Radcliffe & Co, Preston.

Potential purchaser of house not licensee but a tenant

Bretherton v Paton Before Lord Justice May and Sir George Waller [Judgment given February 25]

The defendant had been granted exclusive possession of premises for a term at a rent, he was a tenant and not merely a licensee, even though he had entered into possession with the intention of purchasing the premises and neither he nor the freehold owner had intended that a tenancy should be created.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the defendant, Miss Karen Lorraine Paton, from a decision of Preston County Court (Mr Assistant Recorder Hegarty) which on July 9, 1985 had granted the plaintiff, Mr William Bretherton, possession of a dwelling house in which the defendant had been living, together with mesne profits, on the basis that she was a mere licensee and entitled to the protection of the Rent Act 1977.

MR JEREMY NICHOLSON for the defendant; Mr Mark Blacket-Ord for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the defendant had approached the plaintiff with a view to becoming tenant of the premises.

The plaintiff had declined to let them, but said that he would be willing to sell them to her, on the basis that the defendant would live there forthwith and put them into good condition so that she could raise a mortgage to buy them.

She had entered into exclusive possession of the property on that basis, paying the defendant £20 a week in respect of insurance on the property and the premium's expenses in paying the mortgage.

There had been no written agreement, and the parties had

subsequently failed to agree a sale price.

The defendant had been happy to remain in occupation, but the defendant had served a notice to quit, when she had failed to leave, the plaintiff had brought this action for possession.

If the defendant had been a tenant, she was owed a statutory tenancy, entitled to remain in possession under the 1977 Act.

The judge had considered *Street v Mountford* (1985) AC 809 in length and found that there was a legal relationship between the parties and that the three indicia of tenancy (exclusive possession for a term at a rent) were present, but had held that since the defendant had entered possession under an arrangement for sale and purchase of the property and not originally as a tenant, the case fell within one of the categories of exception to the principle enunciated in *Street* that where the three indicia were present there was a tenancy and not a licence.

His Lordship had little doubt that there was some legally enforceable relationship between the parties.

The defendant had argued that on the basis of the judge's findings of fact, and since they had never agreed any of the necessary terms of sale, let alone an enforceable contract of sale, their relationship was that of landlord and tenant within *Street*, and there was no basis for saying that any exception from *Street* applied.

The plaintiff had said that there had been no intention on the part of either party to create a tenancy; their mutual intention had been that the defendant would purchase the property and in those circumstances *Street* was irrelevant.

It mattered not, he had argued, that there was no enforceable contract of sale and purchase since the whole flavour and colour of the arrangement had been that of sale and purchase, not of tenancy; it would be illogical and unjust to find that a tenancy had been created in the circumstances.

Alternatively, he had submitted, the defendant had entered occupation and paid rent pursuant to an enforceable agreement, the terms of which barred the application of the *Street* principle.

His Lordship had no doubt at all that, although the sale and purchase of the premises had been intended, the defendant had, pursuant to a contract with the plaintiff, entered into exclusive possession of the premises for which she paid a weekly rent. That factual situation clearly fell within the rule in *Street*, and there was therefore a tenancy which was just within the 1977 Act.

The cases referred to by Lord Templeman where exclusive possession was referable to a legal relationship other than tenancy should not be regarded as exceptions to the *Street* principle.

This case had not made any new law or required any new principle to be applied; it had merely decided that where the three indicia existed and were not referable to a legal relationship other than tenancy, there was a tenancy.

Street did not apply where some other legal relationship, or indeed no legal relationship, could be inferred from the surrounding circumstances.

Sir George Waller delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: David Coupe & Co, Kirkham; David Blank & Co, Manchester.

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4 months to 31 March 1987	1201
Year to 31 March 1988	312
Year to 31 March 1989	625

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COMPANY NEWS

- EDINBURGH FUND MANAGERS:** Final dividend 4p, making 6p (4p) for the year to Jan. 1986. Operating income £4.94 million (£4.33 million). Pretax profit £4.12 million (£3.53 million). Earnings per share 16.8p (12.9p).
- WESSANEN:** Final dividend 5.60 florins, making 7.80 florins (6.80 florins) for 1985. Profit, after tax, £2.3 million (£1.7 million), against 48.1 million florins. Profit per ordinary share rose from 16.70 to 18.82 florins. The board expects a further improvement to profit per share in 1986.
- BRAND PROMOTIONS:** The offer by Brand Promotions - a company fully-owned by Mr D A Landau and Mr P N K Beswick - has closed. No acceptances were received. Brand Promotions and Belfors Finance have not agreed to acquire any shares during the offer period. Brand Promotions still beneficially owns 2.03 million ordinary shares of Staneco (60.2 per cent) and Belfors 10,000 ordinary shares (0.3 per cent).
- PRODUCTS:** BBA's offer has been accepted for 34.39 million ordinary shares (61.14 per cent). The total of ordinary shares for which acceptances have been received, or which have been acquired by Morgan Guaranty, is 50.44 million (£9.68 per cent). The offer and the cash alternative are both extended until March 17.
- WALTER LAWRENCE:** Of the 3.86 million 8.5 per cent, convertible, redeemable preference shares offered by way of rights, more than 83 per cent have been taken up.
- ROBINSON BROS (RYDERS GREEN):** Final dividend 7 per cent, making 10 per cent (5 per cent) for 1985. Turnover £18.45 million (£16.39 million). Profit, before tax and extraordinary items, £952,000 (loss £121,000).
- J N NICHOLS (VIMTO):** Final dividend 3.25p (2.75p), making 6p (5.25p) for 1985. Turnover £22.48 million (£19.49 million). Profit an ordinary activities, before tax, £4.83 million (£4.31 million). Earnings per share 16.2p (14.3p).

British TELECOM

EARNINGS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

NINE MONTHS RESULTS

	Third quarter 3 months ended 31 Dec 1985	9 months ended 31 Dec 1985	Cumulative 9 months ended 31 Dec 1985	9 months ended 31 Dec 1984
Turnover	2,111	1,941	6,160	5,620
Operating profit	516	471	1,536	1,392
Profit before taxation	448	386	1,333	1,070
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	248	232	739	660
Earnings per ordinary share	4.1p	3.9p	12.3p	11.0p

Nine months ended 31 December, 1985:

- Turnover up 10%
- Profit before taxation up 20%
- Earnings per ordinary share up 11%

*After adjusting for changes in capital structure in 1984

Investing for growth

The investment figures above are extracts from the interim report, a copy of which may be obtained by telephoning London 01-246 0000. Local call charge only within UK or London 01-246 8993 or writing to Hugh Merrill, Investor Relations, Meridian Investor Relations Office, British Telecom Centre, 11 Newgate Street, London EC4A 3DF.

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Adair & Company	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Citibank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Cds	12½%
Continental Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C. Hoare & Co	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
TSB	12½%
Citibank NA	12½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

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By Order of the Board of Directors
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Managing Director and Actuary
Edinburgh, 11th March, 1986

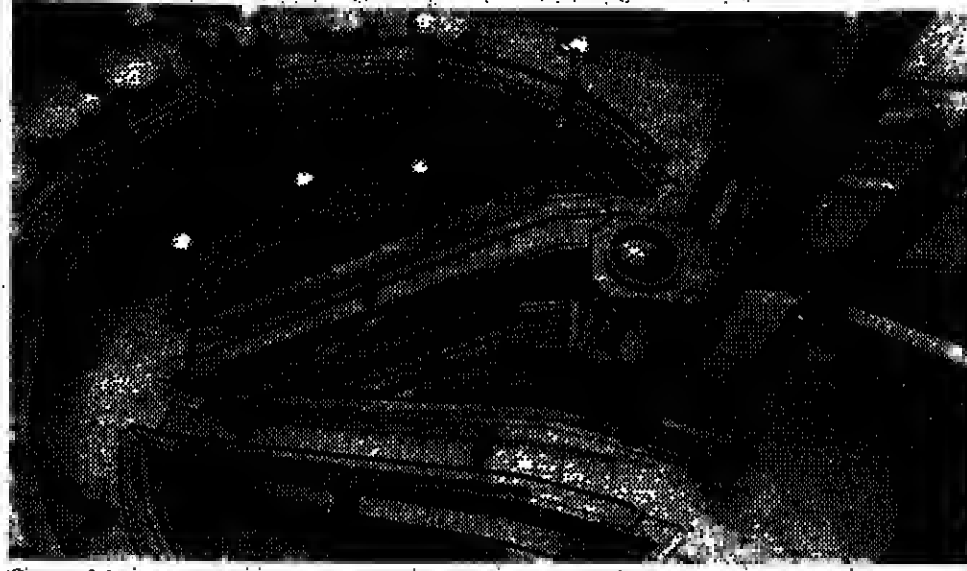
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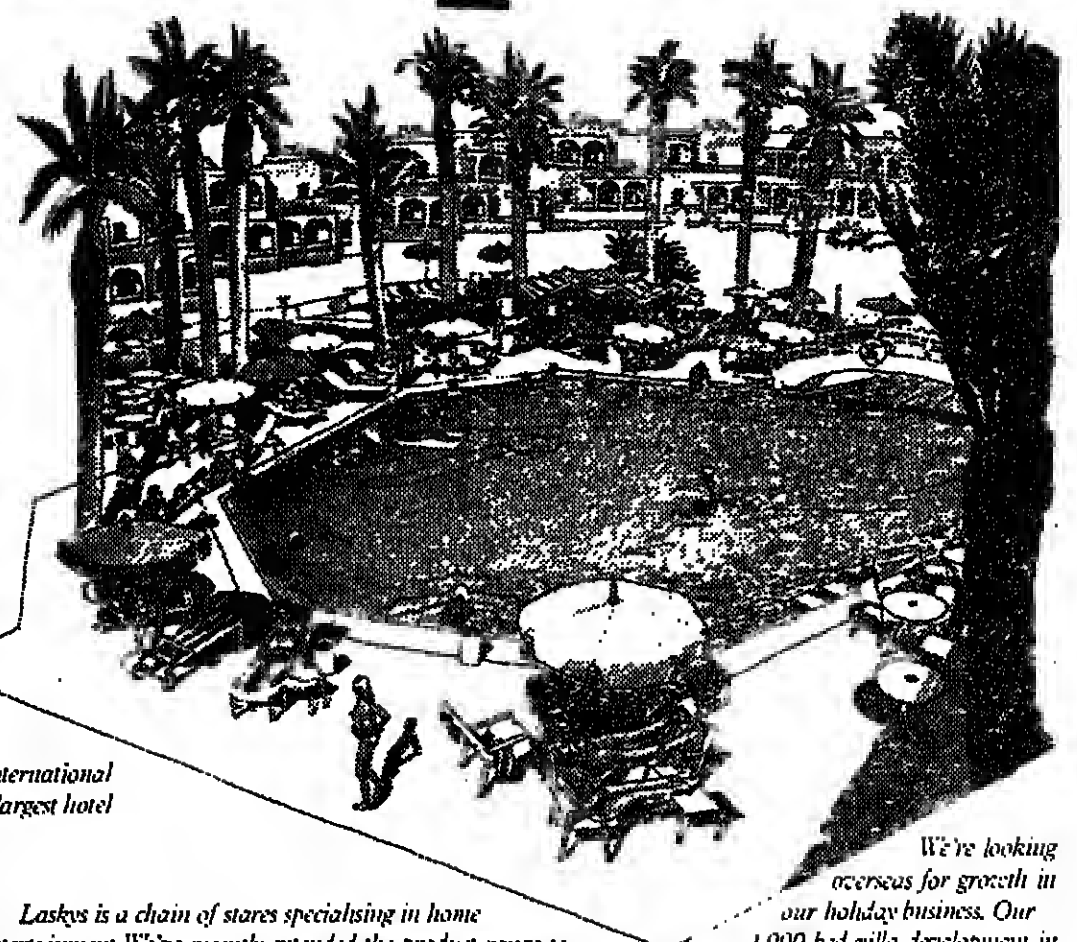
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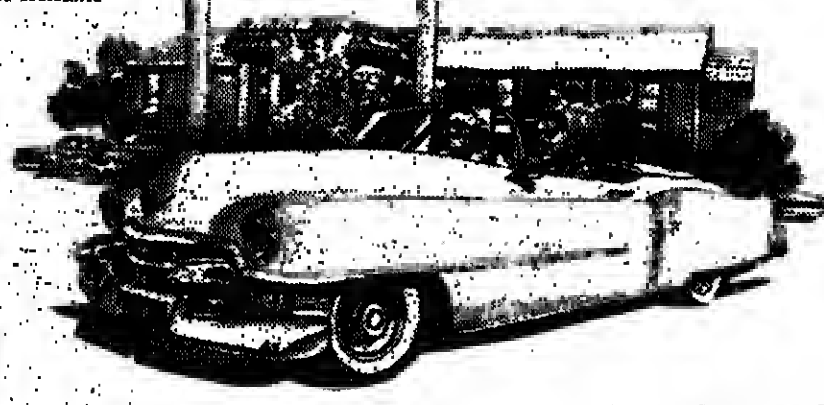
We're looking overseas for growth in our holiday business. Our 1,000 bed villa development in Eilat, Israel, is already operating very successfully. A similar development in Lanzarote has just opened.



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Our purchase of Rodeway Inns International gave us an entry into the world's largest hotel market - America.

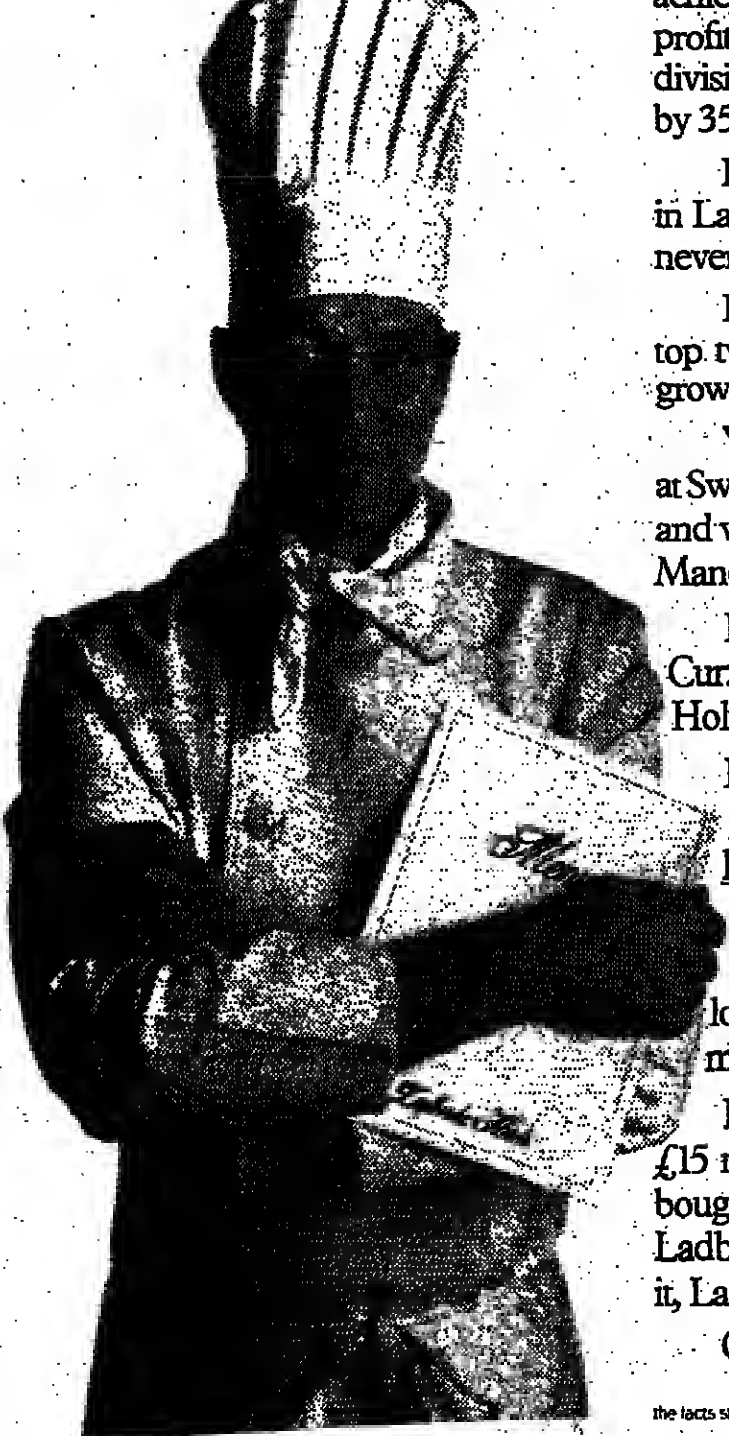


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On Monday of this week Ladbroke announced their preliminary results for the year ending December 31st, 1985.

Pre-tax profits were up 50% to a record level of £75m.

Turnover was up from £1.12bn to £1.34bn and earnings per share increased by 18%.

It was an encouraging year (to put it mildly) with all three core businesses performing well.

Hotels, property and racing achieved a combined increase in pre-tax profit of 42% while the entertainments division boosted its profit contribution by 35%.

Last year was certainly a high point in Ladbroke's history and the future has never looked more exciting.

Ladbroke Hotels are now one of the top two hotel chains in Britain and growing fast.

We've recently opened new hotels at Swansea, Livingstone and Basingstoke and we're currently building at Manchester Airport and Portsmouth.

In London we're relaunching the Curzon in Mayfair and the Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street (where else?).

Because our hotel business caters primarily for the businessman who has to travel we're less dependent on tourism than many hotel groups.

Manchester may be a less exotic location than Rio but it appears more often on an executive's itinerary.

By next winter we'll have invested £15 million bringing the 22 hotels we bought from the Comfort Group up to Ladbroke standards. (And need we say it, Ladbroke profitability.)

Our racing division had an outstand-

ing year in 1985 and with over 1,500 shops in the U.K. we increased our share of the off-track betting market to over 21%.

In Belgium we own over 800 betting shops and last year we bought a race course in Michigan.

(When legislation allows off-track betting, we'll be ready for the off.)

But the most pleasing development happened here in Britain earlier this week.

For the first time, betting shops were allowed to show live TV and satellite coverage of sporting events and to provide new facilities for their customers.

We have already invested in the most modern communication and computer technology to give our clients a service that's second to none.

We call it the 'Greatest Show in Town' and even allowing for a little commercial hyperbole, it does seem to be very popular.

Our U.S.A. properties are establishing a substantial rental stream and valuable dollar assets.

Here in Britain, we're concentrating on the retail sector with major new schemes in Maidstone, Birmingham, and Bristol and out of town developments in Crayford, Hendon, Perry Barr and Cwmbran.

With leisure-time spending projected to increase by 8.5% in 1986, the entertainments division is also expected to do well; publishing is expanding, holiday bookings are ahead of 1985 levels and Laskys is again expected to improve its performance.

As you can see from this brief look at our activities, the future looks far from leisurely.

And that's exactly the way we like it.
Ladbroke.

The directors of Ladbroke Group PLC have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed are fair and accurate. The directors accepted responsibility accordingly. One of a series of advertisements from Ladbroke Group PLC.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Mr Headset heads for success

By Teresa Poole

It was at a trade exhibition in 1983 that the Tewkesbury-based electronics company, Vartek, heard that National Express was looking for a cordless headset system for its coaches. Someone mentioned it to one of Vartek's sales reps, who passed the word to Vartek's founder, Arthur Combe.

Two years and £80,000 in research and development costs later, Mr Combe and two engineers had perfected a system which was ready for production. The Tewkesbury-based company, which was set up in 1981, has now been contracted to fit out all 175 of National Express's Rapide service coaches, which should push the company's turnover to £1.25 million.

Mr Combe said: "We have been lucky. We found one product that has done extremely well for us." Vartek is now becoming a textbook example of how a small company can capture a new market through the development of a specialized high-technology product and secure the necessary financial support to move into production.

In 1976, Mr Combe left the Government's GCHQ operation after 13 years as an engineer to set up a company making TV monitors for the amusement trade. After being bought out by a Japanese company, Combe



Arthur Combe: We have been lucky

again started up alone in business, as agent for a European make of monitor.

Within six months the European company went out of business. He decided to return to the amusement trade, assembling and building coin-operated machines. The market was depressed so from the start, the company, with its five employees, was looking for new products.

At this time, National Express were discovering that its on-coach video screenings did not please those passengers who did not want to watch a film or

hear its soundtrack. Existing cordless headphones were not really suitable for in-coach use and cord systems were thought too unreliable. By July 1984, Vartek was fitting a trial coach and at the end of that year had developed the pre-production prototype.

Each coach costs about £3,000 to fit out (at retail prices) and some independent operators have now also shown interest. Winning such a large order last year meant that the company's working-capital demands increased sharply and a decision was made to seek venture capital. With the help of accountants Coopers & Lybrand, Vartek went to Investors in Industry and Guardian Royal Exchange and raised £250,000, diluting Combe's stake in the company to 45 per cent.

The National Express coach fittings are due to be completed in April and Vartek is now facing a drop in sales without further large orders. But ferries and British Rail have shown interest.

In five years' time, the company hopes to have a £5 million turnover and to be ready for a flotation on the unlisted securities market. On the original side of the business, it holds about seven per cent of the market for coin-operated amusement machines and it has now also developed an interactive video-disc catalogue for car showrooms.

By Derek Harris

Changes to the loan guarantee scheme to breathe new life into it as a generator of small businesses and new jobs are expected to be announced by the Chancellor in next week's Budget.

The main change is likely to be in the premiums being paid by borrowers for the guarantee, which now applies to 70 per cent of a bank loan. This rate, originally three per cent, rose to five per cent in mid-1984 at the same time as the banks' exposure to risk was raised from 20 per cent to the present 30 per cent. The demand for loans under the scheme has since fallen away, raising doubts about the future of the scheme.

But there has been continued support

A new buzz for the BES

for it from David Trippier, minister for small business at the Department of Employment, and it could well have a friend at the Treasury - John MacGregor, the Chief Secretary, a former small business minister.

One advantage of the LGS, especially if it can be switched again into a higher gear, is that it has produced new jobs comparatively cheaply.

It seems unlikely that the banks will be faced with accepting additional exposure to risk. Their commitment to a

new phase of LGS is crucial because it will primarily be bank managers, who will be selling the idea of such loans to prospective small businesses.

What the banks particularly will also be looking for is a government commitment to the LGS over a reasonable period to allow planning of marketing and other commitments. A scheme with a three-year life is being regarded as a minimum specification.

The Chancellor is widely expected to tighten up regulations for the Business Expansion Scheme. But there has also been some study in Whitehall on the possibilities of improving the BES to benefit particularly small businesses needing backing of £50,000 or less.

BRIEFING

York Enterprise Centre, being opened in the city's Davygate this week-end, adds some dimension to the idea of the one-stop shop for small businesses and their needs. It is an unusual blend of private and public-sector interests with a strong commitment to helping with loans, guarantees and equity funding.

The centre, first mooted by the city council, then backed by the Lord Mayor's economic liaison committee that itself brings together many local interests, will offer not only full counselling facilities for small businesses but also a conference centre. York Enterprise, an initiative by the local authority and local business interests, will give help on loans - including soft loans in some cases. The York Area Economic

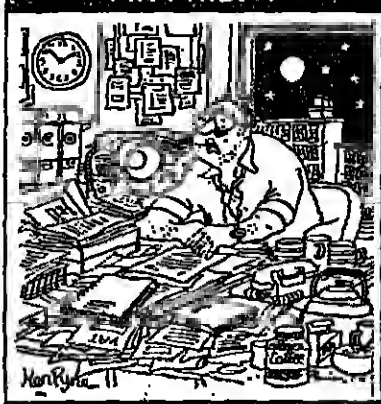
Development Unit will help find premises and deal with planning matters. The Vale of York Small Business Association, an established local enterprise agency, will offer a wide range of advice for small businesses.

Contact: York Enterprise Centre, 1 Davygate, York YO1 1GZ; tel: 0304-644777.

For graduate artists and designers, the London Enterprise Agency (LEEA) is running a one-day course, Setting Up Your Own Business. On April 18 at the London College of Printing, 100 places at £7.50 each. LEEA sees a special need to alert such graduates to the realities of self-employment because artists and designers are twice as likely as anybody else to work for themselves. An advanced course for designers was launched last autumn.

Contact: Sophie Grant, LEEA, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB; 236 2675.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various companies like BHP, Anglo American, and others.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., Fund Name, Price, Change, % P/E.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Surge continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 10. Dealings end March 27. Contango day April 1. Settlement day April 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

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BRADFORD HEALTH AUTHORITY

UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD/1

FOCUS

The comeback after the cuts

As a new technological university, Bradford's aim has been to provide courses and conduct research which is relevant to a modern society. It has pioneered a number of subjects, such as peace studies, and it has recently built on its traditional strength in engineering.

Other areas in which it has a deserved reputation are management studies and languages.

The university was hit very hard by the University Grants Committee cuts of 1981. On paper it suffered a cut of about 28 per cent; in real terms the cut was more like 31 per cent. It therefore lost about £5 million in cash overnight and was forced to shed one-fifth of its students. This was a terrible blow and the university is now a smaller and more sober institution.

Professor John West, the vice-chancellor, decided not to adopt a policy of "equal misery" for all but to apply the

cut with ruthless selectivity. "We looked at what we were good at and decided not to touch those departments," he said. "We found a number of departments were not in a good position and would require money to put right, so we decided to phase them out."

Bradford lost 10 degree courses and its student numbers declined from 5,000 to 4,600. Biology, material science, colour chemistry, textiles, science and society, education, social analysis, the literature and history of ideas, public and social policy, and pharmacology and medical science were all cut.

A total of 120 teaching and 300 non-teaching staff had to go. According to Professor West, the response was "magnificent", and sufficient staff elected to go under the voluntary retirement scheme. Academics in priority areas such as electrical and electron-

ic engineering were not allowed to leave.

Professor West said the positive aspect of the cuts was that the university received extra encouragement from the UGC and was given 50 extra engineering places. Since then it has received funding for another 50 places in electrical/electronic engineering as part of the Government's "switch" money to enable more students to study science subjects.

He said that Bradford was stronger now than it had been five years ago, but there was no magic in the formula. "We are smaller now," he said. "You pay for what you get. The 24 departments that have remained are stronger now, but we have lost biology which I regret very much."

Material science is a big loss. This is a minority subject, but a very important subject in science and engineering.

The biggest factor which told against Bradford in 1981 was that a number of its subjects were not in demand by students. This meant that A-level results were not good in many subjects.

In recent months the university has taken another tough decision: it has decided to do away with physics, again because of a lack of demand. The university had difficulty filling its complement of 30 places and had to rely heavily on the UCCA clearing house scheme to recruit students.

Of the 10 physics staff, three are moving to York University and the remainder are being redeployed at Bradford. By 1988 the physics department will have disappeared from the university.

Of the 4,000 students, about one-third are studying arts subjects and two-thirds science and technology. About 30 per cent of the student body live on the campus in halls of residence and student flats, and the rest live outside in digs or other, rented accommodation.

The university is proud of its expanding opportunities for mature students - those who do not have conventional A-level qualifications and turned out on higher education when they were younger.

It has started a number of part-time courses so that, for example, adults can gain a degree in civil engineering part-time while they are still at work. Altogether there are 350 students in continuing education studying for degrees.

Bradford is cementing its links with industry with the installation of Sir John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI, as chancellor. In succession to former Prime Minister Lord Wilson of Rievaulx. The university was pleasantly surprised when Sir John agreed to be its chancellor and is hoping he will provide a lively stimulus.



no magic in the formula. "We are smaller now," he said. "You pay for what you get. The 24 departments that have remained are stronger now, but we have lost biology which I regret very much."

A special case for engineers

In the past five years Bradford has concentrated on its engineering as it was told to do by the University Grants Committee. Impressive work is going on in chemical, control and electrical engineering, and five new professors have been appointed.

Chemical engineering is one of the biggest schools in terms of student numbers with 280 undergraduates and 50 research students. A special feature is the "think sandwich" element which includes a period spent in France, West Germany, Holland or Switzerland.

A student of chemical engineering will spend his or her first year in the university and in the subsequent three years will spend six months in industry and six months in the university.

In general, students go abroad in the second industrial training period during the



Quiet men: Professor David Howson and Dr Peter Excell, from the electrical and electronic engineering department, at work in a microwave anechoic chamber

third year of the course. They study a language - French or German - in their first year at Bradford though this does not count towards their degree.

The school has run this industrial experience abroad for the past 10 years and Dr Michael Hughes says it broadens the students as people and enables them to become fairly fluent in a language. It has led to some students getting jobs in the EEC.

The course is oriented towards the design of chemical plant and it takes 25 per cent women students, a higher proportion than any other such course in Britain. Fifteen years ago, before the department began to go out of its way to attract girls, it would have been lucky to have one in 25, said Dr Hughes.

One reason for the influx of girls may be that the school will accept an O-level in chemistry as an entry requirement. In research, the department specializes in three major areas: solvent extraction in which it has strong links with British Nuclear Fuels and Harwell; rheology, concerned with the manufacture of plastics, and food processing and the mixing of chemicals; and powders where research concentrates on slurries.

The electrical engineering department has expanded considerably in the past two years to become the largest engineering department in the

university. Because of the extra money it was given in the Government's "switch" to science and technology subjects it has acquired more students, more staff and more capital equipment.

It received £180,000 for equipment in the postgraduate area and £100,000 for undergraduate work. This was more than any other electrical engineering department in Britain.

The undergraduate school expanded by 40 per cent and the postgraduate school began a new Master's course in radio frequency engineering. Telecommunications research interests have been expanded in the past six months, particularly communications with vehicles, satellites and cellular terrestrial systems. The department has been awarded the highest number of contracts by the Science and

Engineering Research Council of any other university electrical engineering department in the telecommunications speciality.

The emphasis in the school is towards electronic and telecommunications engineering rather than machine problems. The two undergraduate courses are electrical and electronic engineering or electronic, communications and computer engineering. Within those two courses students can gain a Masters or a BEng degree.

There are five postgraduate courses - microprocessor engineering, radio frequency engineering, power electronics, communications engineering

and power systems engineering.

The civil engineering department has recently acquired a new professor, Stuart Littlejohn, who came straight from industry from the international group of contractors, Colcrete, the first contractor to be appointed to a chair and the fourth to come from industry.

He set about creating a civil engineering advisory board, a group of academics and employers, plus a headmistress. "We are trying to tap the expertise of all these people to produce graduates who are going to be useful in industry and to produce research programmes that are relevant," said Professor Littlejohn.


Research is being conducted, for example, into thermal cracking of offshore pipelines, calcaneous soils, noise propagation, and sewer repairs.

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A SPECIAL REPORT

FOCUS

Putting a spot-weld on the burn scars

One of the glamorous areas in the university's biomedical sciences school is the new plastic surgery and burns unit which is being established as a result of last year's disastrous fire at Valley Parade football ground in Bradford.

£250,000 has been donated and industrial links have been set up. The unit is a joint endeavour between the university and St Luke's Hospital, and its director is Mr David Sharpe, principal consultant at the hospital who led the team of surgeons treating the burn victims.

The link between the university and the hospital began in 1980 when Professor Terry Baker arrived at Bradford. The two institutions carried out joint research on facial plastic surgery and breast reconstruction for women following mastectomies.

In those days — before the wearing of seatbelts became statutory — there were a lot of patients with face injuries caused by traversing car wind-screens.

The method developed by Mr Sharpe and his team is the "tissue flap" technique, whereby a flap of skin can be transplanted. That has been accompanied by research into glues that are used as surgical adhesives.

The work is being done with a subsidiary of Super Glue called Loctite. It is at a very

advanced stage and the university is about to market a special machine for spot welding.

In the past the plastic surgery was done by surgical sutures, similar to tying knots in the skin. This left a kind of zipper effect with puncture holes on the skin.

The new technique of spot welding involves tacking the skin tissues together with droplets of glue. It is much neater than the suture method, leaving fewer serious permanent marks.

Biomedical sciences is an interesting new department at Bradford. It is a combination of courses in applied biology, pharmacology and medical sciences, together with some new ideas, which were brought together after the 1981 University Grants Committee cuts.

New research into infertility

The new biomedical sciences course is considered to be unique in its scientific basis and ethos. Its underlying theme is to provide an understanding of disease processes, the methods used in their investigation and the evaluation and screening of drugs used in the treatment of disease.

One of the department's most interesting lines of re-

search is in infertility and intersexuality.

It is sometimes found that male or female intersexuality is due to a fault in the chromosomes. The Bradford researchers work out how these anomalies occur and how they might be treated. Most are not treatable.

The researchers examine the ovaries of women and the testes of men. Some patients have an ovary on one side of the body and testes on the other, and are, therefore, known as intersexual.

The school of biomedical sciences contains a clinical epidemiology research unit established in March 1985 to explain the poor health of Bradford residents.

People die younger in the city than elsewhere in the country and deaths among new-born babies are also higher. The unit is examining what can be done to make Bradford a healthier city.

One of the keys might be nutrition among Asian women. There appears to be a higher incidence of deaths among Asian females who are also lighter than indigenous women.

The unit is also looking at heart disease to see whether that is a major cause of death in the elderly, and more so in Bradford than in other parts of the country.



Top men: Mr David Sharpe (above) is director of the plastic surgery and burns unit and Professor Chris Higgins runs the management centre in its fine setting

Tailor-made for business people

The Management Centre reflects Bradford's applied approach by concentrating on practical work. It is not for nothing that it was once known as the "businessman's business school."

As one of Europe's oldest and largest business schools, with a strong reputation for research, it has been chosen as the national centre for doctoral training in management by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Twenty per cent of courses are what is known as "post experience", designed for adults already in work. The remainder are degree courses.

The centre's particular strengths are in interpersonal skills, marketing and in the development of top managers. Many short, post-experience courses are tailor-made for individual companies or institutions such as Unilever, ICI, BP, National Giro, Allied Breweries and Rio Tinto Zinc.

The centre is currently involved in management training for the top boys' public schools belonging to the Headmasters' Conference.

A total of 650 people are undertaking degrees at the centre, of whom 350 are studying undergraduate degrees. The BSc in business studies is a three-year course, giving students a grounding in statistics, maths, computing, economics and accountancy

as well as in psychology and sociology. By the third year they are introduced to the sharper end of business — production, marketing and financial management.

There is also a BSc in managerial sciences, which is business studies plus information technology, and the BA in management studies and French.

In the postgraduate area there is a full-time one-year MBA, the second largest in the country, taking about 110 students. Well over half of these students finance themselves on bank loans and savings, and a handful are company sponsored.

The part-time MBA, lasting three years, attracts an intake of about 50, of whom three or four last year were managing directors doing the degree in their spare time.

Professor Chris Higgins, the centre's director, says that one of these managing directors told him he had learnt so much on the course that he had created 100 new jobs in the past three years.

The centre's doctoral programme is highly regarded and 100 PhDs were achieved in 1984/85, more than in any other UK business school. Research is divided into three major groups: managerial economics, organizational analysis and production management.

The Listerhills science park at Bradford has been called "the best in the country after Cambridge". It was started in 1982, with the first tenants moving in in 1983, and has produced some remarkable success stories.

Built by English Estates as its first specialized high-tech development, the first phase is fully let to about 20 companies mainly involved in computers. There are 42 single-storey units in 42,000 square feet, all with their own front door and parking space, put up at a cost of £1,100,000.

The second phase, comprising 22,700 square feet, was completed last year and is about half full. A third phase is being considered.

The park was conceived from a university site which had been earmarked for expansion in the early 1980s. Then came Bradford's financial cut of 1981 and the sudden end to expansion, so Bradford City Council, which had originally sold the land to the university, agreed to sell it to English Estates.

The development is contained on 11 acres less than a mile from the city and right next to the university. There were three objectives behind its conception. It was hoped the science park would:

- promote Bradford as a centre for "knowledge based" high-tech firms and provide a

A success story for Dr David

new source of wealth and employment in the city.

• enable firms to draw on the expertise and facilities of the university and give academics the chance to develop their research projects and ideas by setting up commercial businesses beside the university.

• provide good quality premises for start-up firms and established businesses specializing in high technology and knowledge-related business.

Lawrence West, the university's director of indus-

Financial aid comes from Europe

trial liaison, helps tenants identify what they need from the university in the way of help.

Financial aid comes from loans provided by the European Investment Bank and the Department of Trade and Industry's Business Improvement Services. Bradford City Council offers a discretionary research grant to Listerhills' tenants.

The grant provides half the cost of research carried out by

the university up to a maximum of £10,000 which leads to the creation of a product or service based in the city.

The science park set out to find companies who needed the expertise of the university and would become involved with the university. The result is that it attracted technologically advanced business rather than routine manufacture.

About five of the science park's businessmen are directly linked with the university in that they left academe in order to set up on their own commercially.

One couple was Dr David Butland and his wife Judy who had worked as a computer officer and a research assistant at the university. They have become a Listerhills' success story.

Their project was to develop computer graphics for the university. In the early days they made these available without charge to other universities. They realized there was a market for their product, took the plunge and left the university to form their own company.

In the first year they received help from the university's own research company, Bradford University Research Ltd.

Then they increased their capital with financial help from the National Enterprise Board and now produce some extremely good computer graphics which are selling well

throughout the world. They have Japanese and German agents.

They were the first tenants in the park, beginning as an outfit of two, building up to four people and then adding another two in their second year. By 1984 they had a staff of seven and a turnover of £100,000. Last year their turnover had increased to £200,000.

They were too crowded in their accommodation and took a 2,500 square foot unit in the second phase of the science park's development.

Another company called BIT is working in the field of intelligence systems computing. A third company, Eltec, was begun by Dr Colin Wormold, a former member of the university's staff. It has taken 4,000 square feet and specializes in computer servicing, distribution and training.

A fourth company, Occupational Health Services, is a hygiene laboratory specializing in hazards at work, such as asbestos.

Mr West said he thought it was the job of a university to create something real out of its activities. "We feel this practical application is part of our job as a university," he said.

"This park is a success story in an inner city area which has not got much. That is very good for morale." None of the companies has been failures and the success of some can be measured by the number of Porsches in the car park.

The Science Park has created about 200 jobs on site from nothing, and the companies are turning over an estimated £8m a year.

When Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, visited Britain last year he was shadowed by a top-flight interpreter from Bradford University.

Richard Pollock is the course tutor on the postgraduate diploma/MA course in interpreting and translating. He specializes in Russian and divides his work between teaching, translating and acting as an Anglo-Russian consultant on, for example, Soviet negotiating methods.

The postgraduate course in interpreting and translating at Bradford is highly regarded and has given the university an international reputation for training professional linguists.

Its intake has to be extremely selective because only 12 of the 120 applicants with first class honours and upper second degrees are accepted.

The department prides itself on raising the standards and status of professional interpreters and translators. Its

Speaking words for Gorbachov

expertise is reflected in its undergraduate work too where there are three four-year courses: a BA in European studies which is a modern language and a social science; and a BA in management sciences and French.

With 28 tenured staff and 320 students, the department provides what might be called an unconventional language education compared with most other institutions of higher education. It specializes in communicative skills rather than in literature.

The BA modern languages degree, the biggest course with an annual intake of 80, offers students the opportunity to develop spoken and written

skills in French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Literature is simply one option, together with the politics or economics of the country under study, from which students choose under the heading of European Area Studies. Politics and economics are the most popular options.

The rest of the students' time is taken up with language work — translation of general, literary, political, economic passages and oral work.

This emphasis on practical language work is perhaps not surprising given that Bradford is a technological university set up after the Robbins report had called for modern lan-

guages to be less remote from job prospects.

Students on the modern languages course spend their year abroad in an industry in two five-month periods in each of the two countries they are studying.

This means that a student doing French and German will spend five months in French industry and five months in German industry, usually in the marketing or export sales departments. Students do placements with companies such as the French national oil company, Elf-Aquitaine, and the German Siemens AG.

Professor Roger Tilford says the relevance of the courses explains why the university attracts such good candidates.

To get into Bradford to read modern languages a student must have more than three Bs at A-level; for the management sciences course with a language they have to do even better.

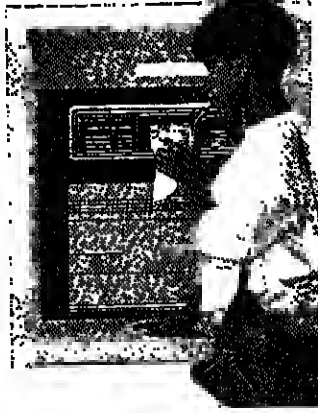
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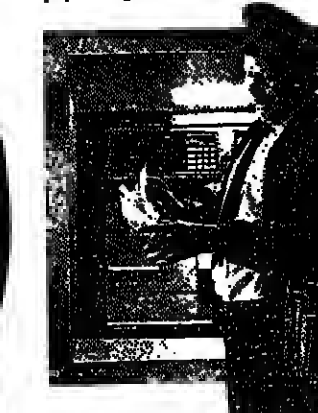
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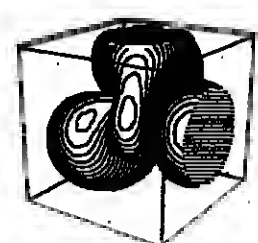
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FOOTBALL: EVANS UNCOMFORTABLE AT THOUGHT OF LEADING HIS TEAM OUT AT WEMBLEY

Milk Cup final managers are haunted by fear of relegation

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Oxford United will be led out for the Milk Cup final by the most reluctant manager ever to appear at Wembley...



The old routine: Rummenigge (left) is watched by Socrates

Digest of detail and doubt Brazil show steel and their age

By Clive White
To help combat the financial problems of the English and Scottish games, the Football Trust...
It is hard to believe that any expedient and intimidatory system could ever extinguish the fires of Brazilian originality...

Sport may benefit from the budget

Chancellor Nigel Lawson is being urged to give British sport a major financial boost in next Tuesday's budget...
The Central Council of Physical Recreation has put together a five-point plan which it claims, "would do much to assist the development and modernization of sport in Britain..."

Wales may not keep up without Jones

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent
Steve Jones has withdrawn from the world cross-country championships in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, on March 23, because of an Achilles tendon injury...
Another area of vexation in British athletics recently has been how to reduce the overall amount paid out to athletes...

Midlands move is pyramid shaker

By Paul Newman
Non-League football by Paul Newman
The long-expected breakaway by a number of Midlands clubs from the national pyramid structure of non-League football will take place at the end of the season...
The Central Midlands League, which will form a "supreme division" is to accommodate them...

RESULTS FROM WEDNESDAY
FOOTBALL
FA CUP: Sixth round: Sheffield Wednesday 1, Southend United 0...
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Farnham 2, Crawley 1...
RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES: Bedford 7, Coventry 17...
RUGBY LEAGUE
SILK CUP CHALLENGE CUP: Second round: Ripley 2, Bradford North 3...
SALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: 2, Dewsbury 1...
MULTIPART LEAGUE: Ryf 4, Morecambe 2...

Action in the old town hall tonight

By Jim Raiton
An unbeaten Oxford this season start favourites on their first night at the 70th annual University match at Oxford Town Hall this evening...
The event was a sell-out more than a week ago. Both sides contain three Blues, including the captain, J. Morgan, Oxford's first-choice batsman...

Proper credentials

By John Hennessy
The Rochampton Golf Cup, a traditional harbinger of spring in women's golf, has attracted a strong field for today's competition...
The Rochampton Golf Cup, a traditional harbinger of spring in women's golf, has attracted a strong field for today's competition...

England go for new faces

By Joyce Whitehead
The great day in the English women's hockey calendar is upon us for tomorrow England play Canada at Wembley Stadium...
England have a new captain, Barbara Hamby. With 50 caps, she has had great experience at home and abroad...

Scots drop six for new look

By Paul Harris
For Scotland, the matches against England this weekend are the high point of an international season that contains very little else...
The Scots have had a new captain, and a new look squad, saying goodbye in the process to two much-capped stalwarts...

Illusions we must treasure

By Conrad Voss Bark
A publicity hoodlum from a new fishing publisher on a new fishing book...
A publicity hoodlum from a new fishing publisher on a new fishing book, which claims to be the most complete and up-to-date book ever written on the subject...

Philip Nickson on the brave new world of a judo champion

Philip Nickson on the brave new world of a judo champion
When I was young, I was always running with the boys and fighting with them...
This daunting attribute is highlighted by the fact that Miss Berghmans performs best not in her own light heavyweight category but in the open weight section...

Now the warrior queen is fighting for herself

Now the warrior queen is fighting for herself
Berghmans swept away her opponent's feet and very nearly armlocked her in the bargain...
Her single-mindedness is illustrated in another way this weekend when she fights in the women's European championships at Crystal Palace...

TODAY'S FIXTURE
FOOTBALL
7.30 unless stated
Third division: Brentford v Bolton (7.45)
Fourth division: Colchester v Mansfield, Halifax v Wrexham, Hartlepool v Stockport (7.45)
RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES: Bury v Plymouth (7.15), Luton v Rye (7.15)
UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Bristol v Scotland (Bellefleur, Duane, 3.0)
OTHER SPORT
BADMINTON: Women All England Open Championships, Wembley (final)
GOLF: Rochampton Ladies Golf Scratch Challenge Cup
RACQUETS: Colchester British Open at Queen's Club, West Kensington
SQUASH RACKETS: Bectorsford Open at Bectorsford Club, Falmouth
HOCKEY: Women Inter-Services Championship at United Services Ground, Portsmouth, 10.30

PERSONAL COLUMNS

At time for flowers. Interflora

Interflora More than words can say. BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM.

DEATHS. FRASER on March 11th. Mrs. Fraser, aged 75, died of cancer.

DEATHS. GORDON on March 11th. Mrs. Gordon, aged 82, died of cancer.

DEATHS. HARRISON on March 11th. Mr. Harrison, aged 78, died of cancer.

DEATHS. JONES on March 11th. Mrs. Jones, aged 85, died of cancer.

DEATHS. KENNEDY on March 11th. Mr. Kennedy, aged 72, died of cancer.

DEATHS. LEE on March 11th. Mrs. Lee, aged 80, died of cancer.

DEATHS. MURPHY on March 11th. Mr. Murphy, aged 75, died of cancer.

DEATHS. NICHOLS on March 11th. Mrs. Nichols, aged 83, died of cancer.

DEATHS. O'BRIEN on March 11th. Mr. O'Brien, aged 70, died of cancer.

DEATHS. PEARSON on March 11th. Mrs. Pearson, aged 88, died of cancer.

DEATHS. QUINN on March 11th. Mr. Quinn, aged 73, died of cancer.

DEATHS. ROBERTS on March 11th. Mrs. Roberts, aged 81, died of cancer.

DEATHS. SMITH on March 11th. Mr. Smith, aged 76, died of cancer.

DEATHS. TAYLOR on March 11th. Mrs. Taylor, aged 84, died of cancer.

DEATHS. WALKER on March 11th. Mr. Walker, aged 71, died of cancer.

DEATHS. YOUNG on March 11th. Mrs. Young, aged 86, died of cancer.

DEATHS. ZEPHYRUS on March 11th. Mr. Zephyrus, aged 74, died of cancer.

DEATHS. ALEXANDER on March 11th. Mrs. Alexander, aged 89, died of cancer.

DEATHS. BROWN on March 11th. Mr. Brown, aged 77, died of cancer.

DEATHS. GREEN on March 11th. Mrs. Green, aged 82, died of cancer.

DEATHS. HILL on March 11th. Mr. Hill, aged 79, died of cancer.

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Exploration on two fronts pushes back the vast barrier of space

Soyuz flight shown live on TV Meeting crowns twin odysseys

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

The oomal secrecy which surrounded the launching of Soviet space missions was lifted yesterday when Soviet television broke into regular programmes to give live coverage of the lift-off of a flight by two cosmonauts to the new giant orbiting space station, Mir (Peace).

The relaxed and meticulously executed launch of the rocket propelling the two men into orbit on board their Soyuz T15 craft provided a stark contrast to the disaster which recently befell the US space programme when seven astronauts were killed in the Challenger.

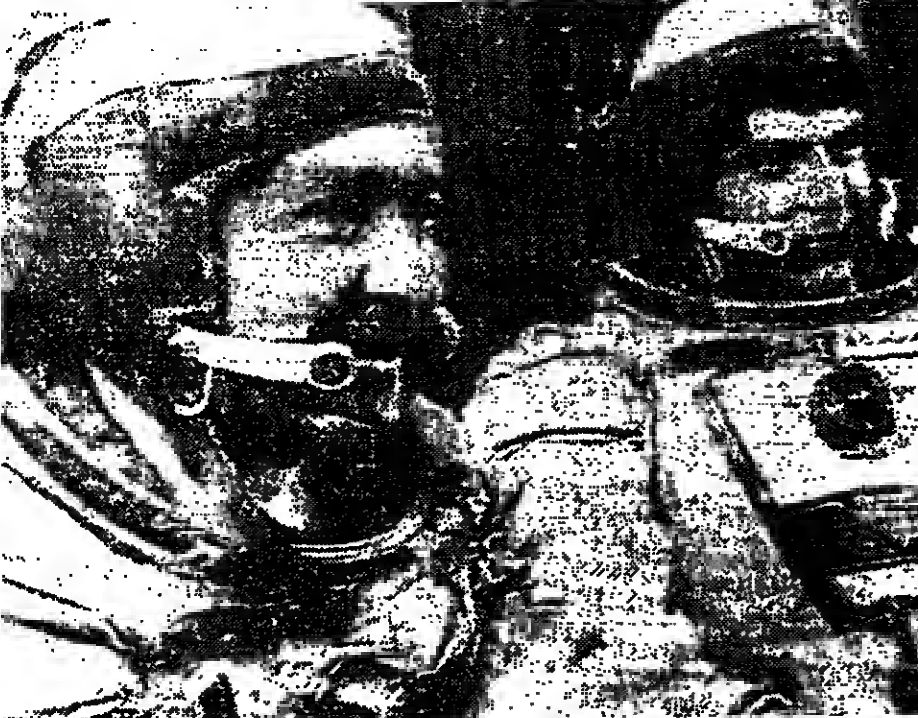
Western scientists described the decision to televise yesterday's launch as a reflection of growing confidence among the heads of the Soviet space programme which has recently notched up some notable achievements. One of its main goals is a manned flight to Mars by the end of the 1990s.

Two of the Soviet Union's most experienced cosmonauts, Leonid Kizim, aged 44, and Vladimir Soloyov, were chosen for yesterday's mission which will be the first attempt to put men on board Mir since its spectacular launch on February 20. Both cosmonauts were part of the three-man Soviet team which set the world space endurance record in 1984 by remaining in space for 238 days.

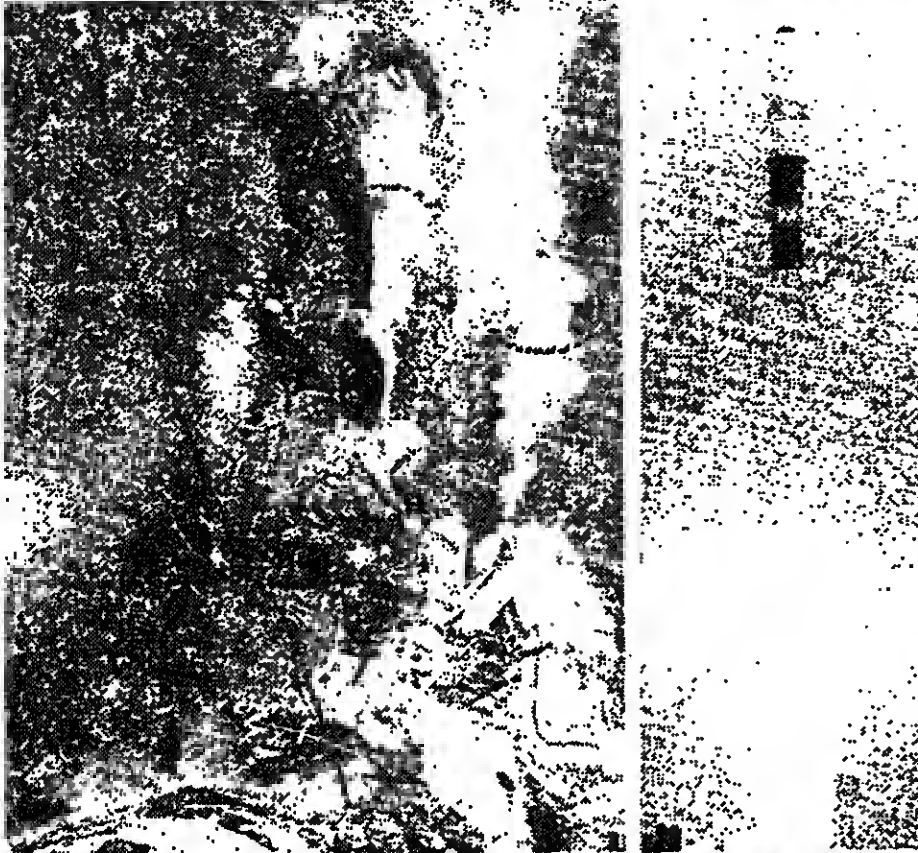
Yesterday's launch from the Baikonur Space Centre to Central Asia was the first time that a lift-off has been broadcast live here since the US-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz link up in 1975. The Soviet film, which was also beamed to the US by satellite, showed the two cosmonauts inside their craft as it sped into orbit and earlier jostling with their controllers.

According to Tass, their craft is due to link up with Mir tomorrow. The ambitious plan was described by Soviet officials as bringing much closer the day when the Soviet Union will have a permanently-manned station in space.

Mir set new standards of comfort for cosmonauts with individual sleeping compartments and armchairs for the crew of 12.



Vladimir Soloyov, right, and Leonid Kizim before the launch of their spacecraft.



The two cosmonauts during underwater "weightless" training for the flight; and the Soyuz launched at Baikonur yesterday to rendezvous with the Soviet space station.

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

The planned close encounter last night between Halley's Comet and the European satellite Giotto, some 93 million miles from Earth, represented the climax of two extraordinary space odysseys.

The first recorded observation of the comet was in 1301. It was seen again in 1531, 1607 and 1682, leading Edmund Halley, the English scientist, to deduce its 76-year orbit.

The 9ft-tall European Space Agency satellite was launched from Kourou, French Guiana, on July 2, 1985, on its eight-month journey to the comet.

The comet's appearance 685 years ago was recorded in a fresco. The adoption of the fresco, by Giotto Bondone, the artist after whom the satellite is named, today's Giotto will capture its image with a camera only 310 miles from the nucleus.

Radio signals travelling at the speed of light will take more than eight minutes to reach the ESA centre in Darmstadt, Germany.

The pictures are expected to reveal some of Halley's mysteries. Two leading astronomers in Britain, Professor Sir Fred Hoyle and Professor Chandrasekhar Wickramasinghe, believe they may even disclose evidence of several fragments.

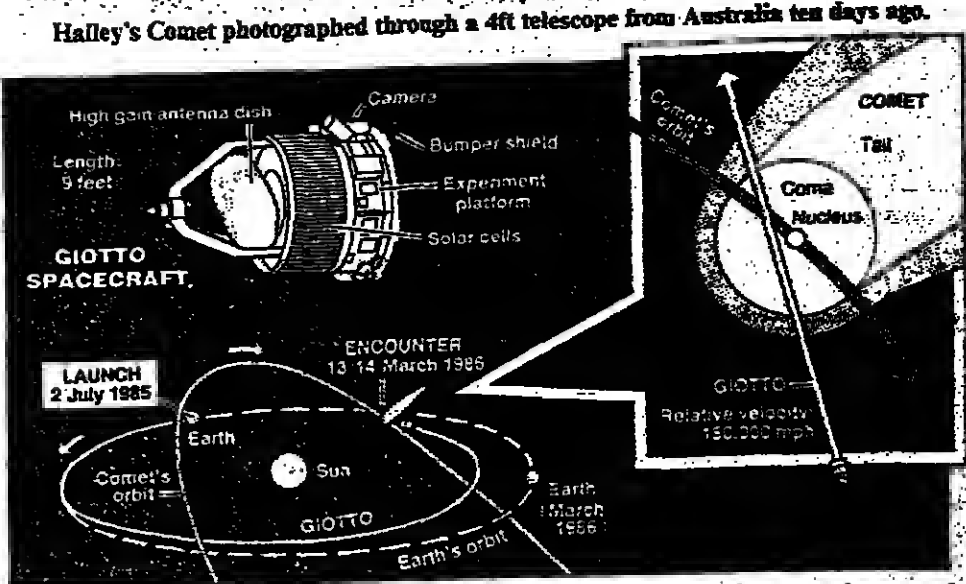
If so, scientists may have to abandon the theory that comets consist of frozen substances and solid dust particles.

The encounter will be brief. The satellite will have only a few hours for its observations. Giotto's journey will be essentially be over. But for the comet the odyssey may be endless.

DARMSTADT: European scientists guiding Giotto say the chances are better than 80 per cent that the gamble will succeed (AP reports).

All systems are functioning perfectly and according to schedule. Herr Rüdiger Reithard, the chief project scientist, said last night.

TOKYO: A Japanese space-craft sent to probe solar winds has discovered radio waves emitted from around the comet, the Education Ministry said yesterday (Renter reports).



Halley's Comet photographed through a 4ft telescope from Australia ten days ago.



The Australian radio telescope tuned to signals from Giotto.

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Prince of Wales, President. Business in the Community. Visits the Aberdeen Enterprise Trust, Willowbank House, Aberdeen, 11.

New exhibitions
The Irish Bookfair, book-sellers and publishers of material on Ireland; The Bookshop, South Bank, SE1; Sun to Sat 10 to 10 ends March 15.

A Noise in Your Ear. Sound sculptures; Barbican Centre, EC2. Mon to Sat 10 to 8. Sun and Bank holidays 12 to 8 (ends April 13).

Work by Jannis Kounellis; Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 23 Dering St, New Bond St, W1. Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30 (ends April 18).

Exhibitions in progress

Fabrics and Daydreams by Joyce Martin; Florida Restaurant, Pound Tree Rd, Southampton; Mon to Sat 2.30 to 9.30 (ends April 7).

Paintings by Philip Hicks; Gallery 10 Ltd, 10 Grosvenor St, W1; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 10 (ends April 5).

Tales from the Mahabogin; Margaret Jones's original illustrations; Caramarthen Museum, Aberystwyth; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30 (ends March 22).

Last chance to see Travel; By 25 past and present comic artists; Langton Gallery, 3 Langton St, London SW1; 10 to 6 (ends today).

Meeting Point - 3 Painters; Stafford Art Gallery; The Green, 10 to 5 (ends today).

Drawings by Marjorie Nicol; High Green School, Park House Lane, Sheffield; 9 to 3 (ends today).

Prints by John Muafengejo; Woodhouse Community Education Centre, Station Rd, Sheffield; 9 to 6 (ends today).

Music

Concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Singers in the Music of Eight Decades series; Royal Festival Hall, 7.30.

Concert by the Lyceum Players, works by Vivaldi, Bach and Handel; St Mary-le-Strand, WC2, 1.10.

Concert by the Ulster Orchestra; Cecile Ousset (piano); Ulster Hall, Belfast, 7.45.

Recital by the Alexandra Quartet with Marius Schrecker; Niccol Centre, Brewery Court, Cirencester, 7.30.

Guitar recital by Rick Sanders; Martin Simpson and Fred Baker; Blackfriars Arts Centre, Spain Lane, Boston, Lincs, 8.

Concert, Music for Spring by Trio Xerox (oboe); Ironbridge, Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford.

Concert by the Durham Sinfonia and Durham University Choral Society; Durham Cathedral, 7.30.

Concert by the Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra; Hall City Hall, 7.30.

Guitar recital by Michael Conn; Nottingham Playhouse, 1.05.

Entertainment of the 17th Century; An Evening at the Court of Mantua; Schutz choir of London; St John's, Smith Square, SW1, 7.30.

Food prices

Retail lamb prices have risen over the past few weeks and whole leg is up a further 5p a lb this week, and up to 10p more at the upper end of the scale. The range is £1.60-£2.12 a lb and £1.60-£2.12 for fillet end leg. Loin chops range from £1.20-£1.40 a lb and whole shoulder £9p-£1.34 a lb. New Zealand lamb prices are steady with the average price for whole leg £1.44 a lb loin chops £1.39; whole shoulder 79p a lb.

There are a few changes on beef; boneless sirloin up 1p to 100p average £2.76 a lb; sirloin steak £3.32 and chuck blade braising steak £1.71 a lb. Many cuts of pork are up slightly with a range of 7p-£1.20 for whole leg; £1.25-£1.50 for loin chops; and 98p-£1.45 for boneless shoulder.

The quality of fish is generally good this week but prices have risen. Cod fillets average £1.67; codling fillets £1.50; haddock £1.72; whiting £1.27; lemon sole £1.18 a lb; dab 67p a lb. Dover sole ranges from as little as £2.00 a lb to £6.00 in some areas. Fresh mackerel is slightly cheaper at 59p a lb.

Supplies of home grown vegetables have improved but prices are still quite high. Carrots 16-23p a lb; cauliflower 75p-£1 each; Brussels sprouts 30-45p a lb; good quality leeks 50-70p a lb; parsnips 25-35p a lb; red and white potatoes 9p a lb; King Edward's and Caras 10-12p a lb; Egyptian King Edward and Caras 15-20p a lb.

Salad ingredients are good and reasonably priced. Lettuce is cheaper this week at 55-75p a head; celery 30-46p a head; radishes 36-32p a bunch; English hot house tomatoes 75-95p a lb.

Top Films

The top box-office films in London:

- 1 (-) Out of Africa
- 2 (-) Ran
- 3 (2) A Chorus Line
- 4 (-) Cornelia
- 5 (3) Spies Like Us
- 6 (4) Rocky IV
- 7 (5) Back to the Future
- 8 (7) The Untouchables
- 9 (6) Kiss of the Spider Woman
- 10 (8) Car Trouble

The top films in the provinces:

- 1 Rocky IV
- 2 Deeply Wound
- 3 Spies Like Us
- 4 A Chorus Line
- 5 Teen Wolf

Supplied by Screen International

Weather forecast

Frontal troughs will cross many areas, with a more becoming SW airstream settling established for a time.

6 am to midnight

London, East Angles, Midlands, E. Scotland, SE England: Breezy, with sunny intervals; mild SE strong, veering SW moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

SE coast, S. SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Fluffy, with rain in places largely dry out; some bright intervals; wind SE strong veering SW moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, N. Scotland, NE England: Sunny periods, scattered showers after early rain, perhaps further rain late evening; wind mostly SW moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

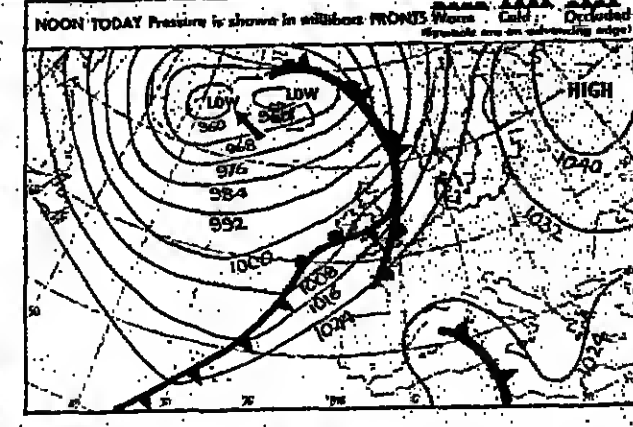
Northants, East Angles, Dundee, Aberdeen, Many Firths: Sunny periods, scattered showers after early rain; wind SE veering SW strong to severe gale; max temp 10C (50F).

Yorkshire, Central Highlands, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney: Sunny periods, showers, further rain late evening; wind SE veering SW strong to severe gale; max temp 10C (50F).

Wales: SE strong followed by showers; wind SE or SW strong to severe gale; max temp 10C (50F).

N Ireland: Sunny periods, scattered showers, further rain late evening; wind SE veering SW strong to severe gale; max temp 10C (50F).

Outlook for the weekend: Mostly dry, rather warm in the SE; rain or showers at times in the N and W but also brighter, other periods.

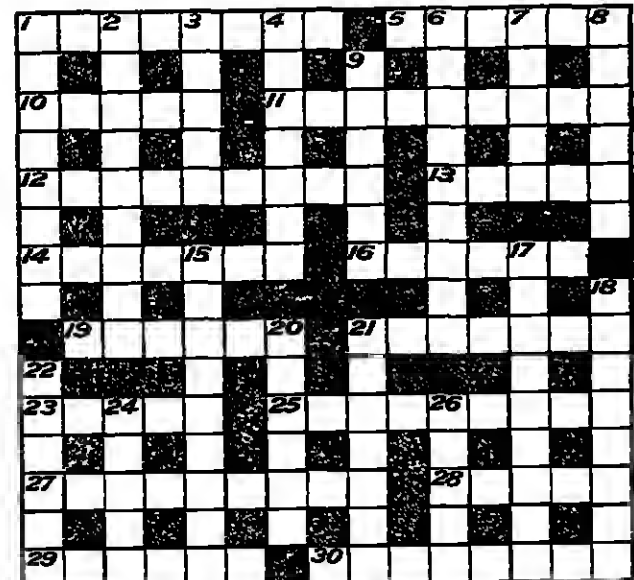


High Tides

Area	AM	HT	PM	WT
London Bridge	3.59	7.0	4.23	7.0
Aberdeen	3.25	3.9	3.27	5.1
Avonmouth	3.25	3.1	2.24	4.8
Cardiff	1.07	3.1	1.24	3.5
Cardiff	9.13	12.2	9.26	11.9
Dover	6.29	3.1	6.34	5.2
Dunfermline	1.00	6.6	1.50	6.2
Dunfermline	7.21	5.2	7.34	5.0
Harwich	3.03	1.6	3.26	4.8
Harwich	1.57	3.9	2.22	4.7
Haywards	12.15	5.2	12.29	5.4
Haywards	6.20	7.1	6.37	6.0
Hywlebeck	5.17	1.9	5.20	5.6
Leam	4.48	5.1	4.58	5.3
Leam	12.12	1.2	12.27	5.2
Leamouth	11.57	2.2	11.50	5.4
Leamouth	1.59	4.7	2.27	5.6
Millwall	3.03	1.6	3.26	4.8
Newquay	7.16	6.3	7.28	6.6
Oban	7.44	2.9	7.49	5.1
Oban	6.58	5.3	6.58	5.1
Portsmouth	1.32	4.1	1.39	4.9
Portsmouth	1.07	1.0	1.07	5.0
Southampton	12.54	4.1	1.03	4.3
Southampton	1.07	1.0	1.07	5.0
Swansea	5.53	6.0	5.53	5.4
Swansea	1.41	4.2	2.05	4.8

Time shown in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,993



ACROSS

- 1 Put out the salty secret (8).
- 5 Mischievous child in an awkward situation (6).
- 10 To rear nameless fowl (5).
- 11 Prime Minister Paderewski, for instance, attracts 10 (5,4).
- 12 Study China's revolutionary aims (9).
- 13 Come round to mock (5).
- 14 Man prepared for action, turned and set off (7).
- 16 Must the French be irritating? (6).
- 19 I love fellows - that's not to be repeated (3,3).
- 21 Don't start tilting and toppling (7).
- 23 Good fellow, this murder victim (5).
- 25 Not easily deceived about tobacco (2,2,5).
- 27 Raised black, shaggy sheep (7,3).
- 28 In practice, Nigerians are a warlike tribe (5).
- 29 Harod of monstrous crime, when gold is stolen (8).
- 30 Mark handwritten words that mean the opposite (8).

DOWN

- 1 Show up Censor in separate notes (8).
- 2 Another telephone? Next one is different (9).
- 3 One is not confined at this comprehensive (5).
- 4 Electors from here transfer no money (7).
- 6 Reformed sinner has not retired (2,7).
- 7 Rise of the Protector under the King (5).
- 8 Girl who kept a diary? (6).
- 9 City without a working goal (6).
- 15 Salutation Sir Galahad possibly heard (4,5).
- 17 Relaxed with flowers, doubtless (9).
- 18 For instance, doctors swallow initially four large iced drinks (3,3).
- 20 Outspoken for an interval (6).
- 21 Puts on a diversion, to release those (6,7).
- 22 Pitched high for a good score at darts (6).
- 24 Shrub is a sort of brush (5).
- 26 Log is rewritten in Irish port (5).

Solution to puzzle No 16,992

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Talks and lectures

Masterpieces of Persian, Turkish and Mughal Painting; 12. Manuscript treasures from India, both by Barbara Brand; The British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC2, 2.30.

Restoration of Paintings: Clarification or Confusion of the Past? by Sarah Walden; University of London, Warburg Institute, Woburn Sq, WC1, 5.

Renaissance Architecture as an Image of Society by Dr John Onians; Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, University College, Gower St, WC1, 6.30.

Control of Power within the European Communities by Lord Mackenzie Stuart; Haworth Lecture Theatre 203, University of Birmingham, 3.

Anniversaries

Births: Johann Strauss (the elder), Vienna, 1804; Paul Ehrlich, biochemist, Suhl, 1854; Albert Einstein, physicist, Ulm, Germany, 1879.

Deaths: John Byng, admiral, executed for failing to relieve Minorca, Portsmouth, 1757; Karl Marx, London, 1883; Friedrich Klopstock, poet, Hamburg, 1803; Basby Berkeley, choreographer, California, 1976.

Roads

London and the South East: City Long delays due to roadworks in Prince St, Cannon St and Cannon St. A15: Lodge Avenue by-pass, Barking, closed, 8.30am to 10.30am. A10: Roadworks between junction 2 (A1123) and junction 3 (A104). A10: Roadworks between junction 2 (A1123) and junction 3 (A104). A10: Roadworks between junction 2 (A1123) and junction 3 (A104).

Wales and the West: M4: Reduced to single line traffic in the W road carrying between junctions 25 and 26. Traffic control by temporary lights as repairs to the high street, Harely Hill, between Birmingham and Bradford upon Avon.

Lighting-up time

London 6.33 pm to 8.46 am
Bristol 6.43 pm to 8.55 am
Birmingham 6.41 pm to 8.53 am
Penzance 6.55 pm to 9.07 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C. D. F. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

Belfast: C 5.41, D 5.41, E 5.41, F 5.41, G 5.41, H 5.41, I 5.41, J 5.41, K 5.41, L 5.41, M 5.41, N 5.41, O 5.41, P 5.41, Q 5.41, R 5.41, S 5.41, T 5.41, U 5.41, V 5.41, W 5.41, X 5.41, Y 5.41, Z 5.41.

Around Britain

Area	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
EAST COAST	2-5	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10	7-11	8-12
WEST COAST	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10	7-11
SCOTLAND	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10	7-11
IRELAND	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10	7-11

Abroad

Area	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Algeria	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Amman	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Antananarivo	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Athens	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Bahia	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Bangkok	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Batavia	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Bombay	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Buenos Aires	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Calcutta	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Canton	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Cebu	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Colon	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Hankow	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Hong Kong	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Kobe	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
London	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Lyons	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Manila	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Medan	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Perth	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Rangoon	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
San Francisco	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Singapore	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Sourabaya	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Tientsin	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10
Yokohama	1-4	2-6	3-7	4-8	5-9	6-10

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Backbench motion on management reorganization of NHS.

The pound

Country	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell	Rate
Australia \$	2.18	2.04	
Canada \$	25.30	23.10	
Denmark kr	72.60	68.40	
France F	2.15	2.03	
Germany DM	12.88	12.18	
Italy L	167.00	158.00	
Japan Y	118.5	111.5	
Netherlands Gld	1.55	1.48	
Norway Kr	275	261	
Portugal Esc	204	214	
Spain Ptas	166	156	
Sweden Kr	11.07	10.52	
Switzerland Fr	2.35	2.28	
USA \$	1.52	1.45	
Yugoslavia Dnr	495	445	

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 372.7
London: The FT index closed down 11 at 1326.2

Snow Reports

Area	Depth (cm)	On	Off	Runs	Weather	Temp (C)	
AUSTRIA							
St Anton	80	280	fair	varied	fair	fine	3
Good skiing on upper slopes							
Seafield	75	80	good	varied	good	sun	-3
Worn patches on lower slopes							
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	155	280	good	varied	good	fine	8
New snow on hard base							
Isola 2000	186	225	good	powder	good	fine	-2
New snow on good base							
Megeve	65	160	good	varied	fair	fine	5
Good skiing above 1800 metres							
Morzine	80	180	fair	heavy	fair	fine	0
Slush on south facing slopes							
SWITZERLAND							
Zermatt	40	180	good	powder	good	fine	6
Excellent skiing everywhere							
Murren	50	160	good	heavy	fair	fine	3
Some worn patches on lower slopes							
Verbier	50	230	good	varied	fair	fine	2
Superb spring skiing							
Villars	40	85	good	crust	fair	sun	4
icy in the mornings							